
LIVERPOOL FC
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST 1892
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Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine
LALLANA LAND
WORKING HARD
STAYING FOCUSED
DREAMING BIG
PHILIPPE COUTINHO
LOVING LIFE AT LIVERPOOL
NEVER WALK ALONE
WHY REDS FANS ARE THE GREATEST
LFC PUB QUIZ
COME AND HAVE A GO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH
RAGNAR KLAVAN
"WE'RE BUILDING SOMETHING HERE"
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BETVICTOR

Issue 55 March 2017

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Good month, bad month…all part of being a football fan. Now find out inside why LFC has the world's best supporters and a potentially dazzling future…

LIVERPOOL

A lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, the stats that matter plus a few blasts from the past.

CLUB

How the club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus stadium news, fab official merchandise, and fan representatives.

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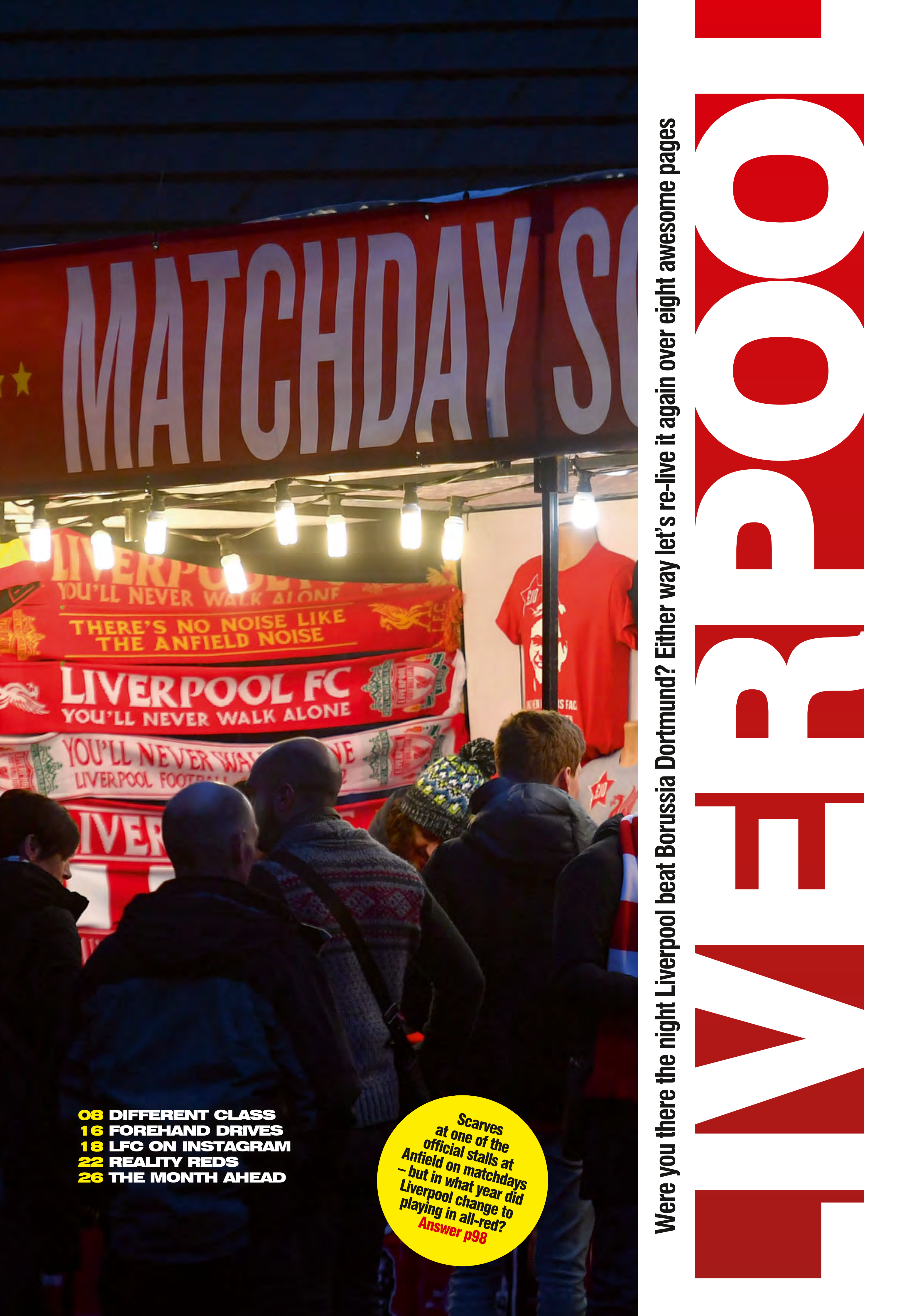




View to a thrill

This aerial view of Anfield by Liverpool Echo photographer Jason Roberts shows the stadium with its magnificent new-look Main Stand in the context of Stanley Park's green swathes, neighbours Everton FC at Goodison, and the ongoing regeneration of the Anfield area.


L.F.C.
L.F.C.
THIS IS
ANFIELD
SPRING COLLECTION
EXCLUSIVE TO LIVERPOOL FC
IN-STORE & ONLINE
LIVERPOOLFC.COM/STORE



LIVERPOOL

Were you there the night Liverpool beat Borussia Dortmund? Either way let's re-live it again over eight awesome pages

Scarves at one of the official stalls at Anfield on matchdays – but in what year did Liverpool change to playing in all-red?

Answer p98



ANIGH
REME
UniCredit
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
enterprise rent-a-car
UEFA EUROPA LEA
WE ARE LIVERPOOL

TTO MBER

An extra-special Liverpool FC evening last season has brought recognition from the game's governing body



Liverpool FC has always been about the fans – how many titanic battles have been won down the years thanks to a pulsating Anfield atmosphere and relentless backing from the Kop?

Now, as you may have heard, Reds supporters and their counterparts at Borussia Dortmund have been honoured at the inaugural edition of The Best FIFA Football Awards – specifically for their unified singing of You'll Never Walk Alone in memory of Hillsborough, before the second leg of the Europa League quarter-final last April. The fixture fell on the eve of the 27th anniversary of the tragedy

This first-ever FIFA Fan Award, designed to recognise an outstanding celebratory fan moment or gesture from the calendar year 2016, was voted for by FIFA.com users – an award for fans, decided by fans.

An expert panel, consisting of former Milan and Croatia ace Zvonimir Boban, decorated Brazilian women's player Marta, ex-Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta and Switzerland boss Vladimir Petkovic, selected three moments. Then the fans voting on FIFA's website chose LFC and BVB as their winners, ahead of Den Haag supporters and Iceland fans.

Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp insisted: "The families of both clubs should be very proud. It was one of the most special and yet strangest nights of my life. I don't think at the time I appreciated how emotionally complex it was for me, Zeljko [Buvac] and Peter [Krawietz], or all of our families.

"It has since sunk in and there are so many moments from the night that I will never forget, but the contribution of both sets of supporters is absolutely the main one. The atmosphere was the best I have ever experienced. It should





AMSTEL
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
FedEx
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
UniCredit
RESPECT
HEIMAT - MEINE LIEBE - MEIN VEREIN
RUSSIA DORTMUND

serve as an example to everyone about how supporters can influence a team and influence a game.

"Of course, this award honours both sets of supporters and the respect shown by our friends from Dortmund was absolutely typical of the world-class values that club upholds. To honour the 96 victims, their families and the survivors of Hillsborough was very poignant.

"I know we won the match and the tie, but I think everyone inside Anfield that night and watching at home – whether they were wearing red or yellow and black – knows that football can be very proud of how they represented their club. So, on behalf of the Liverpool team and staff, I would like to thank those who voted for this special award.

"It is absolutely deserved and I hope the special memories created that night can serve as a perfect example of the joy and happiness football can bring. And it should also show that even in defeat, you can still honour your club's name with your actions."

Runners-up Den Haag made the shortlist after their travelling fans hurled cuddly toys at rival Feyenoord supporters for a Rotterdam children's hospital, while Iceland supporters gained recognition for their choreographed chants at Euro 2016.

"A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE JOY AND HAPPINESS FOOTBALL CAN BRING"





UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Hankook
RESPECT
RESPECT
RESPECT



The cover concept for that night's matchday programme which was further developed to include the number '96' and the eternal flames from the LFC crest


EUROPA LEAGUE
ANFIELD
QUARTER-FINAL
KICK-OFF 8.05PM
UEFA
EUROPA
LEAGUE
LIVERPOOL FC
14.04.16
VERSUS
BORUSSIA
DORTMUND
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892

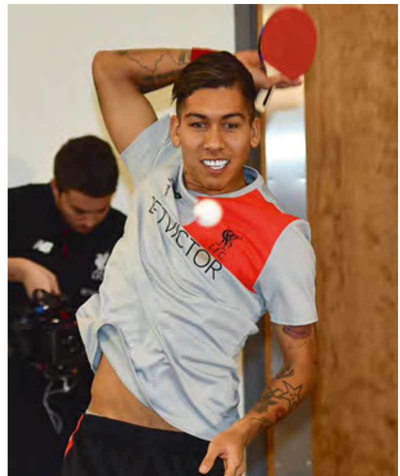
GIVING IT THE



First crown green bowls, now table tennis! Reds boss Jürgen Klopp took part in a special challenge match at Melwood last month to celebrate Chinese New Year.

First-teamers Roberto Firmino and Philippe Coutinho were handed the chance to get one over on the gaffer as they paired up to take him on in the game which celebrated the Year of the Rooster.

Jürgen however, needed a doubles partner, and on the recommendation of 18-time world champion Deng Yaping, he enlisted the services of UK university champion Liu Haoyu. The foursome served up plenty of smiles along the way and our photographer was on hand to capture the action...



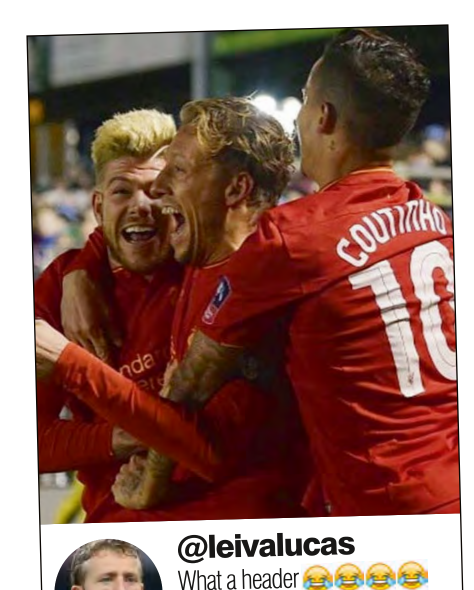




SWERVE!

It's Brazil versus Germany and China as a table tennis champion comes to Melwood





@leivalucas
What a header
jokes aside, very good win.



REDS ON INSTAGRAM

Rounding up some of the best posts from Reds players and fans





@sio_chamberlain
Happy Birthday Grandma!



@liverpoolfc
We have a new Academy Coach - his name? @stevengerrard!



@gembon23
Great to be back training in the rain with the team today



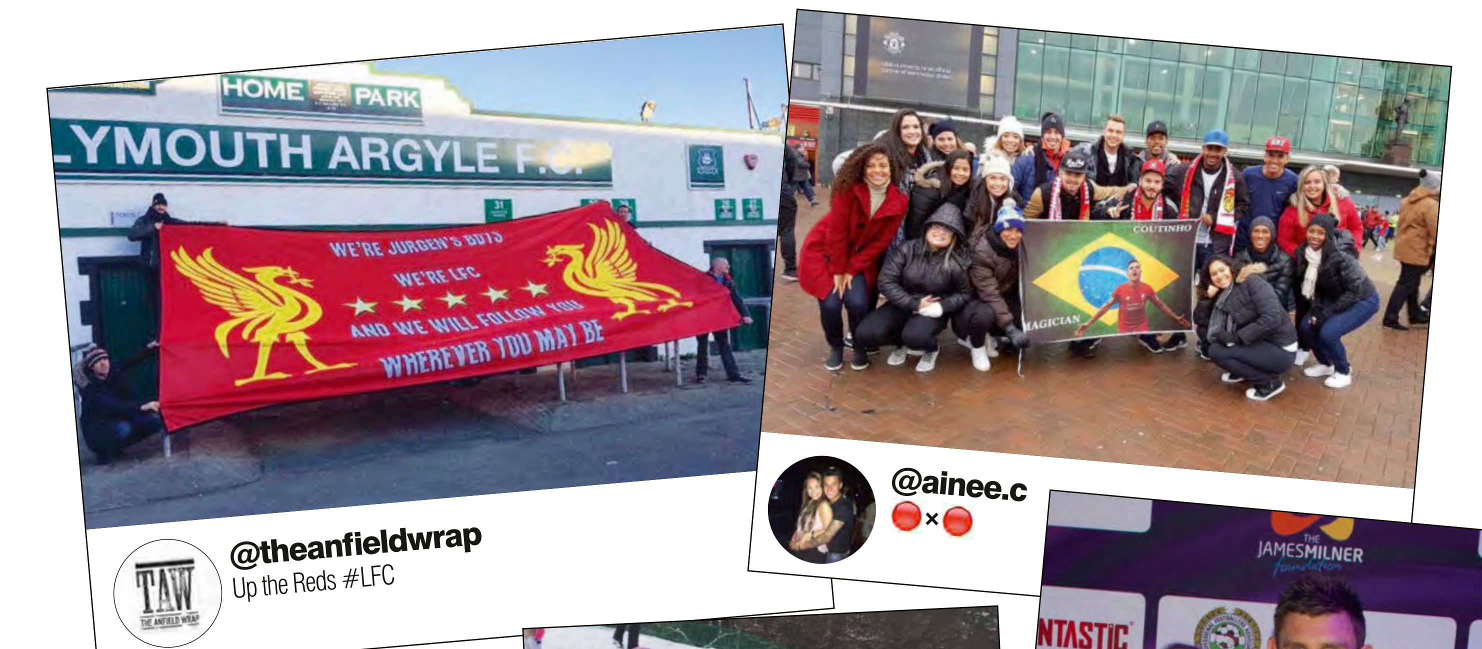


@sadiomaneofficiel
What a win #CAF@africa cup of nation@Gabon 2017 #senegalteam #@YNWA





@jhenderson
Happy birthday to this legend



@theanfieldwrap
Up the Reds #LFC

@ainee.c
🔴×🔴



@thejamesmilnerfoundation
Amy and James at last year's 'willy wonka charity ball' amazing night with thousands raised for the supported charities





@lfcclip
#Trump vs #obama vs #Liverpool
#Liverpool v #Southampton



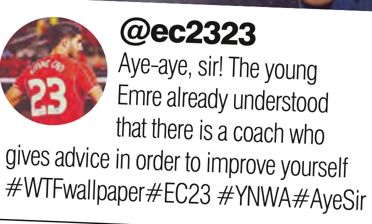
@xabialonso
Meanwhile family Sunday in Bavaria



@abbiekelly88
Anfield under the lights ❤️
#Anfield #red #kop #white #love #football #liverpool



@harrywilson22
Delighted to have made my competitive debut for @liverpoolfc lastnight 🙌🔴 thanks to everyone for the messages 👍



@ec2323
Aye-aye, sir! The young Emre already understood that there is a coach who gives advice in order to improve yourself #WTFwallpaper#EC23 #YNWA#AyeSir



LFC XTRA
now on vixlet®





With Robbie Fowler taking to the slopes for Channel 4 show *The Jump* let's look at some other ex-Reds who've featured in TV's most famous – or should that be infamous – reality shows…

REALITY REDS





DAVID JAMES: GREAT BRITISH BAKE-OFF

Canapes that seemed more like sausage rolls were the result when Liverpool's goalkeeper from the 1990s attempted to do his bit for charity by entering a Sports Relief version of *The Great British Bake Off*. The now 46-year-old has never been afraid to do things differently or have his own style of operating, and the same applied in the kitchen as he stuck a fork in his cake in the belief that this approach would "conduct heat and make it cook quicker."



JOHN BARNES: STRICTLY COME DANCING

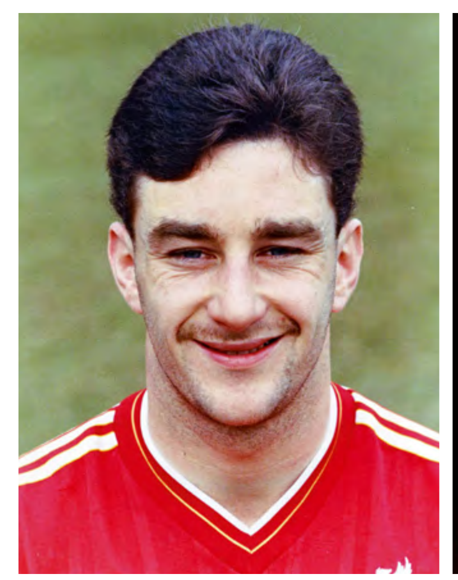
Strolling out from behind the glitter-ball while spinning a footie on his finger, and dressed in a black suit with red neckerchief as *World In Motion* played in the background… Barnsie's appearance on the BBC ballroom show was certainly memorable. His main ambition was to "get past the first round as that will hopefully help me to lose weight." His partner Nicole Cutler, World Masters professional Latin champion, had previously expressed a desire to dance with David Beckham. Despite that, the pair – once appearing in a yellow outfit similar to a Watford shirt – reached the latter stages with John eventually being the eighth person to leave the show after a dance-off defeat to Kelly Brook.





JOHN ALDRIDGE: YOU'RE A STAR

"Playing football and scoring goals is easy compared to singing live on TV. It was so scary I can't go near a karaoke machine any longer." Aldo is talking about his experience on a 2006 Irish singing competition which raised money for Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin. Initially very reluctant to participate – "I can't sing," he insisted – the Scouser eventually succumbed to a bombardment of texts, emails and calls from the organisers. Despite forgetting the words to *Ring Of Fire* and at one stage running back to Liverpool to escape, under the guidance of Louis Walsh he went on to win the competition which was decided by a public vote and raised €160,000 in the process.









STAN COLLYMORE: THE FARM

When reality TV was still in its formative years Channel Five broadcasted *The Farm*, a format that saw celebrities carry out the duties necessary for the running of an agricultural enterprise. Stan, once Liverpool's most expensive signing at £8.5m in the summer of 1995, integrated well but the major cause of his angst was Vanilla Ice. "He's always on the toilet," the former striker moaned about the rapper before asking the other contestants: "Doesn't it bother any of you?" Stan then preceded to leave the show.













NEIL RUDDOCK: VARIOUS

The former Reds central defender has been in *Come Dine With Me* (2016, with fellow ex-players John Fashanu, Carlton Palmer and Frank Worthington), *Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away* (2015), *Celebrity Big Brother* (2013), *Celebrity Wife Swap* (2007, with the late Pete Burns) and *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here* (2004), among other shows. In the jungle he was installed as the bookies' favourite but ended up being voted out during just the second week. "I couldn't eat the food – I thought I was going to die," he told presenters Ant and Dec. But he did reach the live final of *Big Brother.*





BRUCE GROBBELAAR: HELL'S KITCHEN

Another ex-Reds goalie in a cooking contest, and Bruce didn't fare much better than the man who replaced him in the Liverpool team. That was despite his inclusion in the 2009 series being hailed as "compulsive viewing" by ITV. Celebrity chef Marco Pierre White was in charge of the fame-filled kitchen and had Brucie, a double-winner with the Mighty Reds in 1985/86, down as his favourite to win. That tip proved well wide of the mark when, after a visit from his wife to the set, the Zimbabwean decided he wanted to quit. "I can't stop you from going, Bruce, but I would like you to stay because I need you in my kitchen," Marco pleaded to no avail. "My wife needs me more [than the show]," Grobbelaar reasoned.

Win a place at the

Melwood VIP Day

With the **Melwood VIP Day** we're giving LFC Official Members the chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and with Membership now available from just £10 for the remainder of the 2016/17 season there has never been a better time to join.

You and a friend could meet the First Team and watch training at Melwood. You'll then go to Anfield for a **Stadium Tour** and a **Q&A lunch with an LFC Legend** before leaving with an exclusive goodie bag and lifelong memories.

Enter before 28th February for your chance to win.

Join now at liverpoolfc.com/membership





WHAT'S



FOUNDATION DAY 2017

Club's official charity stages its second annual day at Anfield this February

LFC Foundation, the club's official charity, hosts its second LFC Foundation Day on Saturday 11 February 2017.

Following on from the success of last year's event, and to celebrate the Foundation's re-launch, the special day takes place at Anfield when the Reds welcome Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League. A number of fundraising initiatives and activities will take place around the stadium, showcasing a wide range of Foundation programmes including Respect 4 All and Premier League Kicks. LFC community coaches will host free footpool sessions and a five-a-side football and a blind penalty shootout in the Family Park on Anfield Road.

All money raised will support the work of the charity, which aims to improve the health and life-chances of children and young people in Merseyside and beyond by delivering a range of programmes and by working in partnership with other charities and non-profit organisations.

To celebrate Foundation Day's return, fans are also being offered the chance to win a day in the life of Jürgen Klopp. The prize includes: guided tour of Melwood including Jürgen's office; meet the first team and watch training; lunch with Jürgen; take Jürgen on for a game of paddle tennis; photograph and signed shirt to take away.

All the details are at www.liverpoolfc.com/foundation. A £5 donation gives fans five chances to win and all proceeds from the raffle will help support LFC Foundation.

ON: FEB

ALL SET FOR SPURS

Foundation Day also sees Anfield's only Premier League game of the month: a mouthwatering one against Tottenham. The two sides played out an entertaining 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane earlier in the season, while more recently Mauricio Pochettino's side lost here 2-1 in an EFL Cup tie in October.



MONDAY MONDAY

The Reds round off the month with a visit to the champions for some Monday-night football. Last season's trip to Leicester City saw the Foxes claim a 2-0 victory but the Reds gained a measure of revenge when they opened the expanded Main Stand by beating Claudio Ranieri's men 4-1 back in September.



U23S ALL ACTION

The Under-23s have a busy month with five games, including a Premier League 2 clash with Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday 5 Feb (1pm). Mike Garrity's side also have two Premier League Cup ties, both on the road: at Huddersfield on Sunday 12 (2pm) and West Brom on Saturday 28 (7pm). They also host Derby County in another league game at Prenton Park on Sunday 19 Feb (1pm).



SANGRIA WITH LUIS

Liverpool fans can enjoy a Spanish fiesta at Anfield on Thursday 16 Feb in the company of the 'five-foot-seven of football heaven' that is Luis Garcia, re-living the Champions League victory in 2005 and his semi-final goal against Chelsea. Tickets are £39 per person and include: a glass of Sangria or San Miguel upon arrival; paella prepared by LFC chefs; interview with Luis by Sky Sports La Liga correspondent Rob Palmer; photo-opportunity with the Champions League trophy; plus live entertainment. Tickets are limited so to book, call 0151 264 2222 or visit the club's website.



Birthdays and anniversaries



Mike Hooper 53 on 10 February
Phil Neal 66 on 20 February
Alec Lindsay 69 on 27 February
Stephen Wright 37 on 8 February
Mamadou Sakho 27 on 13 February
Gabriel Paletta 31 on 15 February
Ronnie Moran 83 on 28 February
Steve McManaman 45 on 11 February
Sammy Lee 58 on 7 February
Jonjo Shelvey 25 on 27 February
Nick Barmby 43 on 11 February
Kevin Keegan 66 on 14 February
Jari Litmanen 46 on 20 February

6 years since Luis Suarez made his debut for Liverpool, scoring against Stoke City at Anfield on 2 February 2011
16 years since Jari Litmanen scored his first Liverpool goal on 10 February 2001
26 years since the 4-4 draw at Everton in the FA Cup on 20 February 1991
39 years since Graeme Souness scored his first LFC goal on 25 February 1978
91 years since goal-machine Gordon Hodgson made his LFC debut on 27 February 1926.
118 years since Alex Raisbeck scored his first Liverpool goal on 11 February 1899.



Aldo on the Kop

It's 30 years since forward John Aldridge scored on his home debut for Liverpool on 28 February 1987.

Having secured a dream move to the club, the boyhood Red had to bide his time for a first start, which came about when Paul Walsh was suspended for the visit of Southampton. His dream occasion produced a dream result as Aldo scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 victory over the Saints.

"It was a header past Peter Shilton after Jan Molby had delivered a great free-kick into the box," he recalled.

"The roar from the crowd as the ball went in was immense, It was a magical moment and as good as all those thousands of times I'd imagined it."

FIXTURES 2016/2017

AUGUST

Sun 14	Arsenal (A)	4-3
Sat 20	Burnley (A)	0-2
Tue 23	Burton (A, EFL2)	5-0
Sat 27	Tottenham H (A)	1-1

SEPTEMBER

Sat 10	Leicester City (H)	4-1
Fri 16	Chelsea (A)	2-1
Tue 20	Derby (A, EFL3)	3-0
Sat 24	Hull City (H)	5-1

OCTOBER

Sat 1	Swansea City (A)	2-1
Mon 17	Manchester Utd (H)	0-0
Sat 22	West Brom (H)	2-1
Tue 25	Tottenham (H, EFL4)	2-1
Sat 29	Crystal Palace (A)	4-2

NOVEMBER

Sun 6	Watford (H)	6-1
Sat 19	Southampton (A)	0-0
Sat 26	Sunderland (H)	2-0
Tue 29	Leeds Utd (H, EFL5)	2-0

DECEMBER

Sun 4	Bournemouth (A)	3-4
Sun 11	West Ham United (H)	2-2
Wed 14	Middlesbrough (A)	3-0
Mon 19	Everton (A, 8pm)	1-0
Tue 27	Stoke City (H)	4-1
Sat 31	Man City (H)	1-0

JANUARY

Mon 2	Sunderland (A)	2-2
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	0-0
Wed 11	Sout'pton (A, EFL SF 1L)	0-1
Sun 15	Manchester Utd (A)	1-1
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	1-0
Sat 21	Swansea City (H)	2-3
Wed 25	Southampton (H, EFL SF 2L)	0-1
Sat 28	Wolves (H, FAC4)	1-2
Tue 31	Chelsea (H)	1-1

FEBRUARY

Sat 4	Hull City (A, 3pm)
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (H, 5.30pm)
Mon 27	Leicester City (A, 8pm)

MARCH

Sat 4	Arsenal (H, 5.30pm)
Sun 12	Burnley (H, 4pm)
Sun 19	Manchester City (A, 4.30pm)

APRIL

Sat 1	Everton (H, 3pm)
Wed 5	Bournemouth (H, 8pm)
Sat 8	Stoke City (A, 3pm)
Sun 16	West Brom (A, 3pm)
Sat 22	Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)
Sat 29	Watford (A, 3pm)

MAY

Sat 6	Southampton (H, 3pm)
Sat 13	West Ham United (A, 3pm)
Sun 21	Middlesbrough (H, 3pm)

(LFC score shown first, all dates/KO times subject to change)



FOOTBALL

Exclusive interviews with Lallana and Klavan plus the latest Liverpool Ladies signing and the new LFC Under-23s coach

Philippe Coutinho has signed a new contract with Liverpool FC – but can you name the three previous teams that the midfielder has played for? Answer on p98

"I WANT TO BE AN LFC LEGEND"

Why Liverpool's little magician has extended his stay at the place he calls home



Philippe Coutinho has revealed he'd one day like to be held in the same esteem as Anfield legends like Kenny Dalglish, Luis Suarez and Steven Gerrard, after signing a new contract with Liverpool FC.

The 24-year-old Brazilian international agreed a five-year deal, beginning on 1 July 2017, and now has his sights firmly set on emulating the success of the past by winning major honours as a Liverpool player. "I live this every day, I can smell it," he says.

"I see the ambition of the club, my team-mates, the manager. I am living it, seeing it. Wait to sign? No. No. Now is the right time.

"I understand what Liverpool means. We can say Dalglish, Rush, Hansen, Souness, Suarez, Gerrard. I've been here quite a few years already, it's not like I am new. I understand. To have signed a new contract at this club, my goal is to be thought of one day in the same way as these players. They are legends. You define the success of a player by his loyalty or his titles. Or both. In order to be part of this group, I have so much to do.

"I want to win titles. Five years is my new contract, it gives me that opportunity."

Midfielder Philippe also put to bed suggestions that he should have waited until the summer to decide on his future amid speculation that he could receive big-money offers to play in Spain or China. "China, no. I am not interested. I don't think about that, not for one moment. My football is here. My heart is here. I don't think about any other club, not at all.

"I believe in finding somewhere you can express yourself, play without fear, play with everything you have. When you find that place, stay. This club, Liverpool, it has a plan: to be back on the top and that's what I believe in. I want to be part of that. There is nothing that stops us competing with the big clubs. Clubs in England. Clubs in Europe. Yes, clubs like Barcelona. Why not?"

Among those understandably delighted that Coutinho is staying at Liverpool is team-mate and club captain Jordan Henderson. "Phil is world class in every sense; ability, attitude, character – he's the full package," he wrote in a recent matchday programme.

"He made a big statement by saying he belongs at Liverpool. I've shared a dressing-room with this player for a decent amount of time now and I can tell you he is as ambitious as any footballer I've ever met or worked with.

"Phil wants to win and win major titles. The fact he has committed to here is the biggest message you can get that we are in a positive situation."

AND JOE STAYS TOO

Joe Gomez has also singed a new long-term contract, committing his future to Liverpool Football Club.

Signed from Charlton Athletic 18 months ago, the defender returned to first-team action in January following a long spell on the sidelines through injury, and the England Under-21 international admits he is grateful for the faith that was shown in him during his rehab.

"When it was mentioned about me extending my time here, it's not something I had to think very long about. It means a lot to me. It's a massive gesture from the club to show that trust and faith in me. That's why it was so important I did the same and done it so quickly, because I'm very happy here.

"I've loved living here and playing here and learning under the new manager, so it was a quick decision. I had the year where I was injured, so it's a nice point for me to try to put that behind me now and start afresh by signing this."

Gomez, 19, put pen to paper on his new contract just a couple of days after Philippe Coutinho signed his new deal and says he's delighted that the Brazilian has pledged his future to the Reds. "Everyone knows how great Phil is, everyone has that feel that he is world-class. For him to commit and show his loyalty to the club has a great feel. That's obviously something that's going to make the supporters happy.

"There's a good feel around the club because everyone is happy to be here and it feels like the club is going in a great direction under this manager."



GERRARD THE RETURN

Club legend Steven on coming back home in his new role as a Liverpool FC Academy coach



Steven Gerrard was always destined to come back to Liverpool FC one day, so it was no surprise when he took up a coaching post at the Academy recently, a role that he will officially begin this month.

"It feels like completing the circle, returning to the place where professionally it all began," says the 36-year-old, who came through the ranks before playing for the first team for 17 years. "But this isn't a decision based on emotion – it's about what I can offer and contribute to Liverpool.

"I don't think I need to explain to people what this football club means to me, but when I knew coming back was a serious option I wanted to make sure it was a substantive role and a role in which I could really help the organisation."

The set-up at Kirkby is already hugely familiar to our former skipper. He has been completing his coaches badges on the site and will now aim to pass on some of the experiences he gained during the 710 appearances he made for the Reds in a career that brought him 186 goals and a host of trophies, before he spent his latter days playing for LA Galaxy in the MLS prior to announcing his retirement in 2016.

"Meeting with [Academy director] Alex Inglethorpe, seeing the work they are currently doing and want to do in the future at Kirkby, it just felt right.

The right option at the right time, for all parties involved," he continues. "This gives me a great opportunity to learn and develop as a coach, while at the same time offering my knowledge, ideas and experience to the young players at an important period of their development."

Inglethorpe feels the former skipper is the perfect addition to the coaching staff of our underage structure: "If I was to pick one individual who embodies the characteristics and values we are looking to instil into our organisation at Kirkby, it would be Steven Gerrard. For him to have been so enthusiastic about being part of what we are looking to do is simply great news for everyone connected to the club.

"I don't think it would surprise anyone to know that Steven has had a host of great options, in terms of what to do next in his career, including playing, management and coaching. But it's been evident from the first meeting with him that his heart and head belongs here. He has shown great humility in making it clear from the outset he wants a role where he can contribute to Liverpool; it's typical of him that his priority has been defining the role so it helps the club, ahead of himself.

"He has expressed a desire to learn from us and manage a young team. The benefits to us will be immense. This is a substantial role and one which makes the Academy and the club in general stronger and better."





"I LOVE T OF FOOT



Adam Lallana admits he can't get enough of the game, whether it's on the pitch or on a screen

HE BUZZ BALL"

Footie, five-a-side, Sunday League, a kick-around, a game on the astro. Whatever way you describe playing football we all recognise the buzz that it creates. When the day comes around you can feel it inside; the sense of anticipation building as the time draws nearer.

Adam Lallana recognises it too. It's something he's known since childhood. "You wake up and have a buzz straightaway because you know it's the day you'll be playing. When I was a kid that was the case and it's definitely the same now," the attacking midfielder says.

Growing up every day must have felt that way for him. "Probably, yeah, because I played all of the time, wherever and whenever possible. At school, at the youth club, Sunday league or over the fence on the local field. It was a massive hobby for me and something I really loved."

Such enjoyment and dedication meant he was developing his game to a high standard almost without even realising it. Perhaps that goes some way to explaining his rare ability to use both feet equally well. As Southampton legend Matt Le Tissier recently remarked: "When Adam Lallana is in full flow he is a joy to watch. I've rarely seen a footballer so comfortable on both feet. He moves so naturally with the ball."

"I FIND WATCHING LIVE GAMES ON TV A GOOD WAY TO CHILL; NOT ALL OF THE LADS WOULD AGREE"

Enjoying kicking a ball around so much and so often meant that by the time he first turned up at Bournemouth's Centre of Excellence he already possessed some of the abilities the older kids were trying to develop. Terry Wateridge, one of the coaches there, recalls: "[Lallana] was about six or seven when I first met him. We used to have sessions next to the main football club, extra sessions where any kid could come along. Adam was an exceptionally chirpy lad, always smiling. He always had a football with him and used to beg us to play, even though he was too young."

When the coaching staff eventually relented to his pleas they were glad they did so. Wateridge again: "He was so far ahead of everyone else. He had unbelievably quick feet. He was a natural. He could just play. As well as his talent, his enthusiasm stood out. I know a lot of boys at that age love football, but he just couldn't get enough of it."

At the age of 12 Lallana moved on to nearby Southampton where he continued to flourish. The only distraction that ever threatened to tempt him away from his infatuation with the game was cricket. "I'm still a massive cricket fan," he confesses. "I used to play for Dorset when I was at school. Me and Milly [James Milner] have quite a big interest in it now and are always chatting about it."

For all that, football became his main focus, even if it was only in his mid-



On-field acrobatics



Out for the Anfield pre-match warm-up



Green day: two goals at Boro

Early strike v West Ham

teens when he began to consider the possibility that it could actually become a career. “I knew I had a chance [of making it] when I was getting a scholarship at Southampton, that was around the age of 15 or 16. I knew then that I was going to have a chance to become a professional.

“But even then I never felt too much pressure. I really enjoyed it because I was still with my mates every day playing football. I didn’t really take it too seriously. The older I got, and the closer to 18, when I was in and around the first team it started to get serious. At that point I started to realise I was on the brink of making it. I haven’t looked back since really.”

Even then, despite becoming a pro with the Saints where he debuted in the League Cup in August 2006 before playing his part in Southampton’s rise to the top flight, he never considered being a professional footballer as an occupation. Instead he always thought of it as a hobby.

“From my point-of-view I suppose it was only when I had a family that I think I really began to look at it as a job because I had kids to support. I was 23 or 24 when that became the case. Before then I didn’t consider it [the job aspect] too much. Once you have responsibilities you look at it slightly differently. But I know how lucky I am to have a career as a footballer and I still enjoy it now as much as I ever did.”

“FORMATIONS ARE JUST A NUMBER REALLY, JUST LITTLE TWEAKS HERE AND THERE”

It’s that same passion for the game which drives a near-neighbour of his, a certain Jürgen Klopp. The prospect of having your boss in such close proximity wouldn’t sit comfortably with many people – in fact they might dread the idea!

Lallana shrugs it off. “I can’t actually remember the moment I first found out or somebody told me we were going to be neighbours. But Jürgen’s so easy-going it’s just like having a normal neighbour. He’s a private family man, just like myself, and we don’t actually see each other too often near home really so it’s all fine.”

Naturally the two do see plenty of each other at Melwood on a daily basis. It was there, while discussing football, that the boss showed our no20 footage of his own playing days back in Germany. “He showed a few of us a video of him scoring a goal on his phone,” Adam recalls. “His celebrations were aggressive and passionate, just like he is now. That’s brilliant to see. It’s what makes him the manager he is and it’s what you want.

“Jürgen always says that he played at a good level but not the top level. He says he always got the maximum from the level of talent he had. That’s his mentality. He wants us to do the same now: get the most from our ability too.

Of course it’s the manager and his staff who decide on how the team plays and how the formation is deployed. In doing so they’ve used a number of individuals in different positions since arriving here, such as James Milner in defence – “Milly’s been one of the best left-backs in the league,” says Lallana – and Roberto Firmino as a false nine, or Lallana in a deeper role in the centre of the park.

The set-up of teams and the formations used are a subject of much discussion among fans in modern football; 3-5-2 or 3-2-4-1 or 4-3-3, no matter how it looks somebody will usually suggest it’s slight different to the common opinion. Blogs are even written about such subjects.

Lallana thinks such in-depth thought



LALLANA: GOALS AND ASSISTS IN

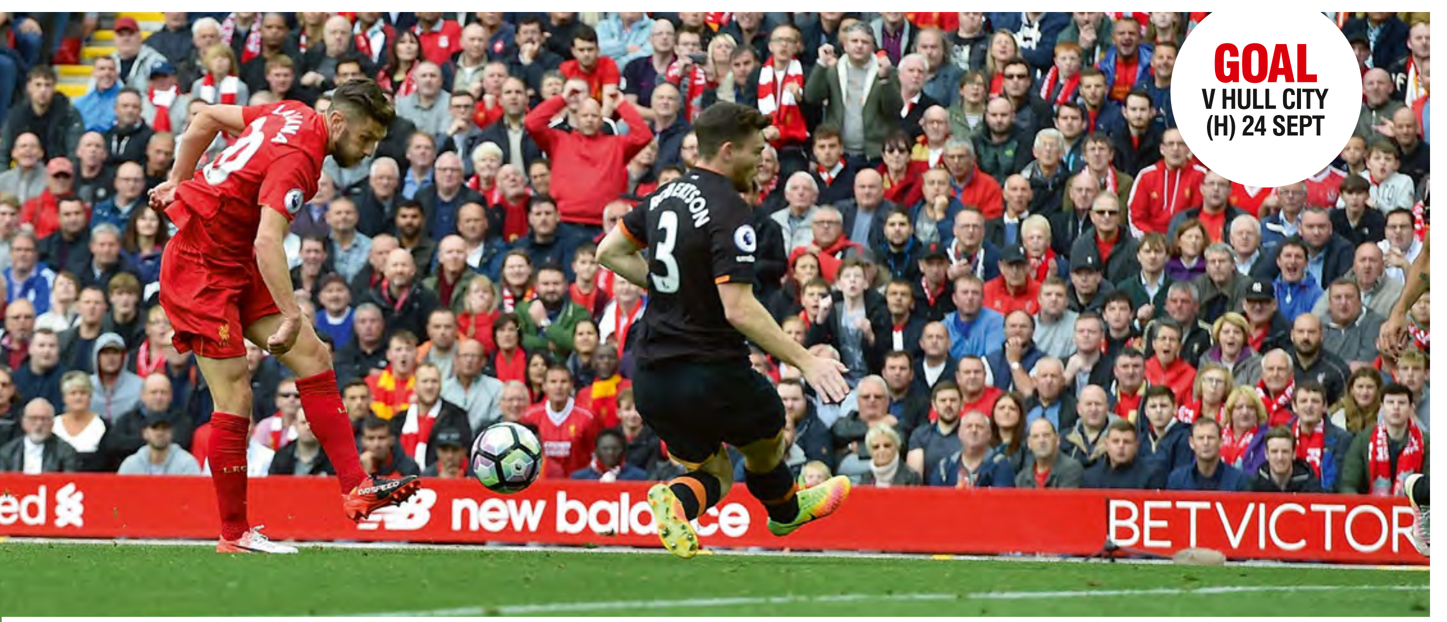
GOAL
V ARSENAL (A)
14 AUG



GOAL
V LEICESTER CITY (H)
10 SEPT

ASSIST for Mane v Arsenal (A) 14 Aug **ASSIST** for Mane v Hull City (H) 24 Sept **ASSIST** for Coutinho v Hull City (H) 24 Sept **ASSIST** for Can v Watford (H) 6 Nov

THE 2016/17 PREMIER LEAGUE



GOAL V HULL CITY (H) 24 SEPT



GOAL V WEST HAM (H) 11 DEC



GOAL V MIDDLESBROUGH (A) 14 DEC



GOAL V MIDDLESBROUGH (A) 14 DEC



GOAL V STOKE CITY (H) 27 DEC

ASSIST for Firmino v Watford (H) 6 Nov **ASSIST** for Origi v Middlesbrough (A) 14 Dec **ASSIST** for Wijnaldum v Manchester City (H) 31 Dec



• Up to and including end of Jan 2017

“SOCIAL MEDIA IS GOOD AND BAD; EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION WHICH IS FAIR ENOUGH”

or analysis can go overboard. “For me, formations are just a number really. We don’t have massive discussions about stuff like that. There isn’t really much difference playing, let’s say, a 4-3-3 or a diamond. There might just be little tweaks here and there.

“A lot of it depends on what personnel you have available for each position too. I’ll play a certain position differently to someone else in that role because of my natural qualities and natural movements. For example, if I play on the right I’ll go about it in a different way than somebody such as Sadio [Mane].

“That’s the same for anyone else. James Milner will play the left-back position differently to a more orthordox left-back. So it’s not a massive thing for players.”

Nonetheless it still creates plenty of debate online via sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Numerous footballers, alongside other sports stars and those from the world of TV and film, avail of such websites to communicate with fans. Unfortunately it doesn’t always work out well.

Adam, who has his own Instagram account with 899,000 followers, thinks the use of social media is “probably a mixture of good and bad. When things are going well of course it’s great to read and see praise and a pat on the back for the team. The flip-side is when it’s not going well and you read negative stuff. Everyone has an opinion, which is fair enough. It’s up to you if you want to read it or not. You have a choice, it’s as simple as that.”

If a result doesn’t go LFC’s way you’d imagine every player would want to avoid debate, or any football for that matter. That’s not always the case, though. “I’ve found the higher up I play the more intense it is and the less I want to switch off really. For example, I got back home after we lost to Swansea and then watched Man City v Spurs, which some people might not have wanted to do after our game. A few of the lads probably couldn’t sit through another game that day.

“Then I watched the live games the next day too. I find it a good way to chill out. If I didn’t enjoy football so much I probably wouldn’t watch those games.

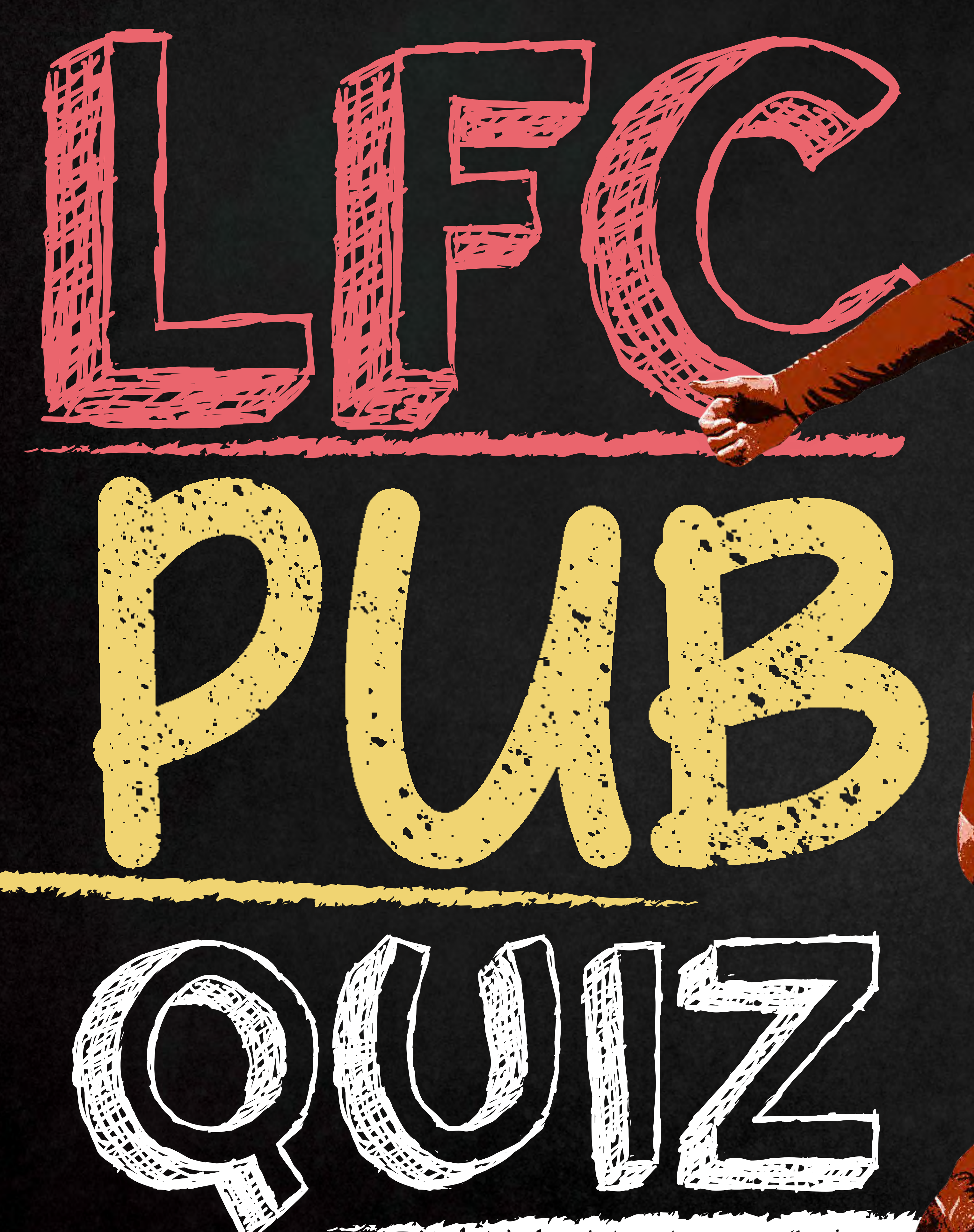
“Of course it doesn’t feel as good watching other teams play if you’ve just lost. But I love the buzz of football and always have.”





Adam has been voted England player of the year for 2016

WHOSE ROUND IS IT ANYWAY? YOURS IF YOU SCORE LESS THAN HALF IN OUR FIRST BIG





WHAT'S THE SCORE #1

1 WHAT DID LIVERPOOL DO TEN TIMES IN PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES IN THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2016?

2 WHICH THREE PLAYERS, WITH 128, 120 AND 118 GOALS RESPECTIVELY, ARE LFC'S ALL-TIME TOP SCORERS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

3 WHEN BEN WOODBURN NETTED EARLIER THIS SEASON AGAINST LEEDS UNITED IN THE EFL CUP, BY HOW MANY DAYS DID HE BREAK MICHAEL OWEN'S RECORD AS LFC'S YOUNGEST-EVER GOALSCORER?

4 HOW MANY PLAYERS HAVE SCORED TWICE FOR LIVERPOOL IN AN FA CUP FINAL?

5 WHO SCORED 16 TIMES IN 242 PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES FOR LIVERPOOL, WITH HIS FINAL GOAL COMING IN THE 4-1 WIN AT MANCHESTER CITY LAST SEASON?

PICTURE ROUND

Identify the FIve famous Liverpool FC fans in this gallery…

6

7

8

9

10

RAMSAY ST

LIVERPOOL FC
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE



ANFIELD ANAGRAMS #1

Re-arrange the letters to discover the hidden LFC person or thing…

M R I N F E R I O R B O O T

11 SCORED THIS SEASON'S LFC WINNER AT CRYSTAL PALACE

A S K T H Y A N G E L S

12 ANFIELD LANDMARK WHICH WAS RECENTLY RELOCATED

E L I T E Z E B R A F A N

13 HIS SPANISH TEAM BEAT LFC HOME AND AWAY IN 2002

K N I T W E A R V E S T

14 CHILDHOOD RED WHO JOINED LFC FROM SPURS IN 2014

H A N D Y M R P U N Y

15 FORMER LFC MIDFIELDER NOW TURNED TV PUNDIT



NUMBER CRUNCHING

16 LIVERPOOL HAD 7,448 OF WHAT IN LAST SEASON'S PREMIER LEAGUE – MORE THAN ANY OTHER TEAM?

17 WHICH FIVE PLAYERS HAVE JOINED LIVERPOOL FC IN £25 MILLION-PLUS TRANSFERS?

18 AND WHICH FIVE PLAYERS HAVE LEFT ANFIELD IN £25 MILLION-PLUS DEALS?

19 OF THE 14 LFC PLAYERS WHO APPEARED IN LAST SEASON'S LEAGUE CUP FINAL, WHO'S THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE LEFT THE CLUB?

20 FORMER REDS STRIKER CRAIG BELLAMY PLAYED V LFC FOR WHICH SIX OTHER CLUBS?

WHAT'S THE SCORE #2

21 WHO'S SCORED THE MOST HAT-TRICKS FOR THE REDS, EVER?

22 LIVERPOOL WERE ONE OF ONLY THREE TEAMS TO STOP LEICESTER CITY FROM SCORING LAST SEASON – WHO WERE THE OTHER TWO?

23 WHO SCORED MORE GOALS FOR LIVERPOOL: FERNANDO TORRES OR LUIS SUAREZ?

24 WHOSE ONLY EUROPEAN GOAL FOR LIVERPOOL CAME IN THE 4-4 DRAW WITH CHELSEA AT STAMFORD BRIDGE IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER-FINAL SECOND LEG OF APRIL 2009?

25 HOW MANY MINUTES WERE ON THE CLOCK WHEN SADIO MANE SCORED THE WINNER AT GOODISON PARK ON MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2016?



ANFIELD ANAGRAMS #2

More Reds-related figures whose names need to be unjumbled…

S L I N K Y L E G H A N D

26 SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL FC ON WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 1977

G O T M I N I M E L O N S

27 PLAYS FOR LFC NOW AND OWNS A CAFE IN HIS HOMETOWN

M A D M A N H A I R N E T

28 REGULARLY SPEAKS HIS MIND IN THIS VERY PUBLICATION

M R L I M E J E A N S

29 ONCE THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S YOUNGEST-EVER SCORER

S O H I J O E Y

30 BACK AT ANFIELD AFTER LOANS WITH WIGAN AND WOLVES

BORN AND RED

31 WHICH OF LFC'S BRAZILIAN CONTINGENT WAS BORN IN RIO DE JANEIRO: (A) PHILIPPE COUTINHO (B) ROBERTO FIRMINO OR (C) LUCAS?

32 WHICH TWO MEMBERS OF THE LIVERPOOL FIRST-TEAM SQUAD WERE BORN ON THE EXACT SAME DATE AND PLAY IN THE SAME POSITION?

33 DEJAN LOVREN AND ALBERTO MORENO WRE BOTH BORN ON 5 JULY BUT IN WHICH YEARS?

34 WHO'S THE OLDEST OUTFIELD MEMBER OF THE CURRENT LIVERPOOL FIRST-TEAM SQUAD?

35 PUT THESE MANAGERS IN ORDER OF OLDEST TO YOUNGEST: JURGEN KLOPP, RONALD KOEMAN, PEP GUARDIOLA, JOSE MOURINHO, ANTONIO CONTE…



ANSWERS:

WHAT'S THE SCORE #1: 1. Score four goals or more in a match; 2. Robbie Fowler (128), Steven Gerrard (120) and Michael Owen (118); 3. Ben beat the record by 98 days; 4. Four – Kevin Keegan v Newcastle United in 1974, Ian Rush twice v Everton in 1986 and 1989, Michael Owen v Arsenal in 2001, and Steven Gerrard v West Ham United in 2006; 5. Martin Skrtel.
PICTURE ROUND: 6. Sam Quek; 7. Jimmy Tarbuck; 8. Caroline Wozniacki; 9. Daniel Craig; 10. Alan Fletcher.
ANFIELD ANAGRAMS #1: 11. Roberto Firmino; 12. Shankly Gates; 13. Rafael Benitez; 14. Kevin Stewart; 15. Danny Murphy.
NUMBER CRUNCHING: 16. Forward passes; 17. Sadio Mane, Andy Carroll, Christian Benteke, Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana; 18. Luis Suarez, Fernando Torres, Raheem Sterling, Christian Benteke and Xabi Alonso; 19. Kolo Toure who moved to Celtic; 20. Bellamy played against Liverpool for Coventry City, Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers, West Ham United, Manchester City and Cardiff City.
WHAT'S THE SCORE #2: 21. Gordon Hodgson with 17 hat-tricks for LFC between 1926 and 1935; 22. Manchester City and Bournemouth in consecutive 0-0 home draws for the Foxes after they'd lost 1-0 at Anfield; 23. Suarez with 82, Torres got 81; 24. Fabio Aurelio; 25. 94 minutes.
ANFIELD ANAGRAMS #2: 26. Kenny Dalglish; 27. Simon Mignolet; 28. Dietmar Hamann; 29. James Milner; 30. Sheyi Ojo.
BORN AND RED: 31. Philippe Coutinho – Roberto Firmino was born in Maceio and Lucas in Dourados; 32. Goalkeepers Lorius Karius and Danny Ward (on loan at Huddersfield Town) wereboth born on 22 June 1993; 33. Lovren was born in 1989, Moreno in 1992; 34. Ragnar Klaven, aged 31 and born on 30 October 1985; 35. The oldest is Mourinho (aged 53 and born on 26 Jan 1963), then it's Koeman (aged 53, born 21 March 1963), Klopp (aged 49, born 16 June 1967), Conte (aged 47, born 31 July 1969), and the youngest is Guardiola (aged 45, born 18 Jan 1971).

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

LESS THAN 15:
There's an anagram for that performance: CARP

BETWEEN 15 AND 30:
Hard lines but love the team name: 'Klopp's Cracked Gigs'

OVER 30:
Congratulations. Next month we're confiscating your iPhone



"I'M HERE TO WIN TROPHIES"

Liverpool Ladies made a statement of intent when they made England legend Casey Stoney their first pre-season signing, and here she explains why she is excited to have joined the Reds...

Liverpool Ladies enjoyed a good season in 2016; was that a big draw in your decision to move north?
Yes, definitely. I know they went on an unbeaten run of ten or 11 games, including a win against the side that I was playing for at the time, Arsenal. I was impressed with their work-ethic, the way they played for each other and the way they played for their manager. So a big factor in my decision to come here was that they seemed to have a great team-spirit. I wanted to be part of that and part of the project that the manager Scott Rogers is trying to build in terms of getting the team to the best position possible.

How impressed were you by Scott?
Being truthful, Scott was one of the main reasons why I signed because he was honest. He was open to feedback and he knows that he is still learning as a coach. He said he learned a lot of valuable lessons as a manager last season. He takes players' feedback onboard and it seems quite a good learning environment here. That's massive for me because you never stop learning and you never want to stop learning.

He's enthusiastic and passionate and I've heard from every player that's worked with him that he's a great coach. For me as a player, that's key. Ultimately he just seems like a good guy. It was his honesty that I appreciated the most when I came and met with him.

There was never a doubt that I wanted to play for him and when you look at the players' performances here last season, you can see the lengths that they will go to for their manager, and that's a tell-tale sign of what a manager is like.

Moving here will mean you can form a central-defensive partnership with Gemma Bonner...
I know Gemma very well. I've played alongside her with England a few times and I hope that I can help her to cement her place in that England set-up because she's got an awful lot of potential. She's been there or thereabouts for many years and she's an experienced player – even though she's only 25 she's lifted the league title twice. She's obviously been a fantastic player for Liverpool over that time so I'm looking forward to playing alongside her and building a partnership with her.

I have set my sights on us hopefully having the best defensive record in the league this year. Defending is something that we can pride ourselves on and not many people like to do



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MARCH 25TH 2017

ANFIELD STADIUM



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All proceeds will be donated to the LFC Foundation, which creates life changing opportunities for children and young people in Merseyside and beyond. (Registered charity no:1096572)

that so if we can be a team that can, we will be hard to beat. If you look at the back-four, back-five...we've got a really strong back-line and with Siobhan [Chamberlain] behind us too, you'd like to think that we will do well defensively. We've got a lot of work to do in pre-season but we've got time to get things right.

The actual 'proper' season as we call it won't start until September so we've got a long time until we get to that. We have the Spring Series first so we need to make sure that we make any mistakes that we need to make in that and ensure that we get things right. Defensively I thought Liverpool were brilliant last season and I just want to be able to add to that.

Your arrival will also enable Sophie Ingle to move back into her preferred position of central midfield...

Yes. Sophie's another experienced player, albeit still relatively young and an international captain. I think leadership is key. There are a lot of leaders here in this team, albeit in a very, very young side.

I have to say I was really impressed with Sophie last year. I thought she played very well at centre-back. She is technically composed and I know that midfield is where Scott wants to play her, where she wants to play and where you're probably going to get the best out of her. I'm sure she will be happier as she can move further up the pitch now and the team need her to move further up the pitch because she's a really good player.

Unlike last season there won't be too many new arrivals and a settled squad must be a good sign?

Absolutely and I think continuity is key. I'm coming from a club where we changed the team for every single game last season and I don't think it helped. If you can build partnerships across the pitch and build consistency in performance then you don't want to change things too much. Hopefully I can just add a bit of experience and a bit of a cool head. I like to think I know the game pretty well so hopefully I can help the players around me, but most importantly we want to win games of football and we want to win trophies and that's what I have come here to do.

You are joining a team that has your sister-in-law in it [Martha Harris]; that must be a bonus?

It is! Having an auntie on the doorstep is brilliant for my kids and it's made my transition here that little bit easier because while I might be an experienced player, it's still a new city and a new place and change is always daunting.

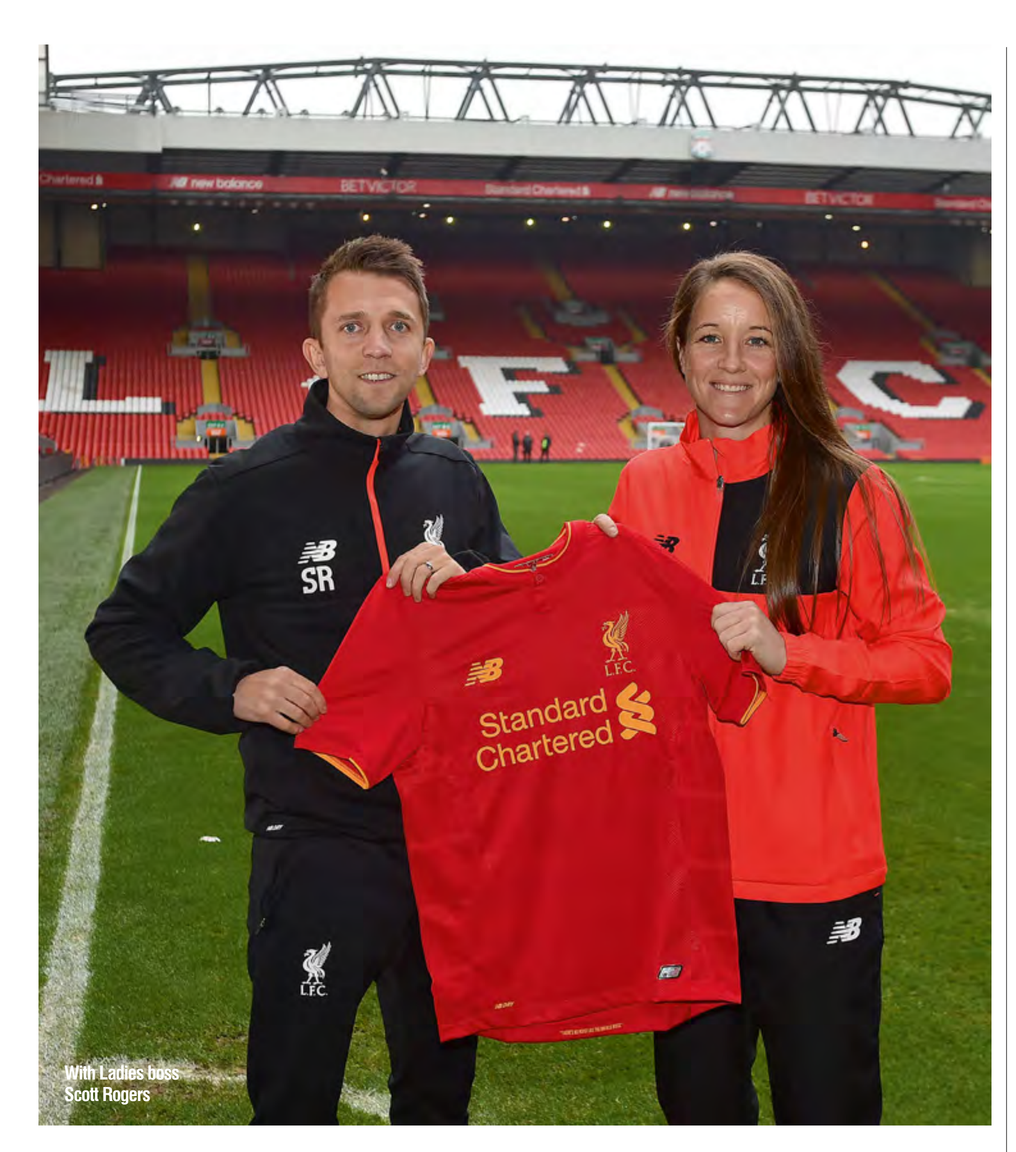
I've been able to stay with Martha for a couple of weeks and she's made me feel very welcome but I have to say the whole team and the staff have made me feel really, really welcome.

It's just felt quite natural and organic, in a way of speaking, that I have joined Liverpool now. It's been really good and I'm excited about the season because I'm excited about this Liverpool Ladies team.

Having Martha around is good and I'm sure she'll be really focused this season because she didn't play as many games as she would have wanted to last season and was out for long spells through injury. Hopefully I can help her too in terms of getting back and playing again.

A quick break from training at Widnes to talk to the magazine




With Ladies boss Scott Rogers

With the re-introduction of a winter women's league, there will be a Spring Series starting in April – how do you view that?

If I'm honest I think it's a bit of an experimental season. The Spring Series means that you can try things, you can make mistakes, you can lose games and you can maybe play some younger players and give them some vital playing time. It also allows new players time to gel and time to get your philosophy in place while at the same time not giving too much away.

Overall it will be important for players to get minutes under their belts and find out what works for your team and I'm sure Scott will have the same ideas. For us as players, its about getting that playing time and obviously we've got the Euros in the summer so it's an opportunity to get that game time and put yourself in contention for selection.

The Women's Super League is getting more competitive with every passing season...

I think it's a huge sign when you see American internationals joining clubs here. That's a sign of intent and it shows where the league is at. It's probably as strong as it's ever been. You look at the international signings that have come to Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal and you see that players outside this country are taking the WSL very seriously now. So for me as a player it couldn't get any better because you want to play against the best week in, week out. You want to test yourself against the best and then you know where you're at. So it's going to be an exciting season ahead. There are four or five teams there who can really compete and I believe we will be one of them.

The Euros take place in Holland in July/August and England will be among the favourites after their bronze at the 2015 World Cup...

I'm very much hoping to go to the Euros. I missed the latest training camp due to injury as I had a bit of an Achilles problem before Christmas so I wasn't quite ready to play. But I'm fit and firing now and hopefully I will be available for selection for the She Believes Cup at the end of February in America [against USA, France and Germany] and very much fighting for a place in the squad for the Euros. All you can do really is keep yourself fit, play well and then it's up to the manager to decide whether he wants to take you or not.

I think England will be going into the Euros with the biggest expectation on ourselves that we've ever had. We came home with a bronze from the World Cup, so semi-final, final, is what you'd probably be expecting from a European Championship. But having said that there's a lot of good nations and a lot of good teams. We've got a tough group [with Scotland, Spain and Portugal] but it could have been a lot harder. We've got to go there as fit as we've ever been and you have to have a little bit of luck in a tournament but we need to win the group. That's vital to make sure that the draw is kind to us on the other side, but we've got as good a chance of any team there.

Of course going there as one of the favourites brings with it great expectation and with that comes pressure and it's how the team handle that pressure. I see it as a massive opportunity for us to go there and be successful and keep changing the face of women's football in this country, then hopefully my little girl and her generation will grow up with far more opportunities than my generation had.

You are currently studying for your UEFA A-Licence too...

Yes, I've been coaching since I was 17 or 18. My A-Licence course is being run through the PFA and it's quite a bespoke course for current and ex-female international players and it's been fantastic. I've actually spoken to Scott about potentially getting on the pitch with the Development Squad and maybe working with the Centre of Excellence teams. The next best thing to playing is coaching so it seems a natural progression for me to be able to do that. But while I'm fit, I want to play for as long as I can. If I can coach alongside that, it would be great. I want to gain some experience on the grass working with players as ultimately I want to help players get to the level in the game that I have.

England international



Interview: William Hughes



BACK IN BUS



CAPTURING LIVERPOOL LADIES ON CAMERA AS THEY RETURN TO TRAINING

INESS







With an FA Cup third-round tie to come in March and the 2017 FA WSL Spring Series set to kick off in April, the squad were put through their paces with a combination of sprinting drills and ball work. In the main picture, manager Scott Rogers and his backroom team of Joe Potts, Phil Backhouse and Alan Jordan pass on some advice.







Clockwise from top: Scott Rogers addresses his squad; forward Ashley Hodson enjoys a laugh with midfielder Katie Zelem; skipper Gemma Bonner clears from winger Shanice van de Sanden; and Wales winger Natasha Harding tests the reflexes of England keeper Siobhan Chamberlain during the session at Widnes.



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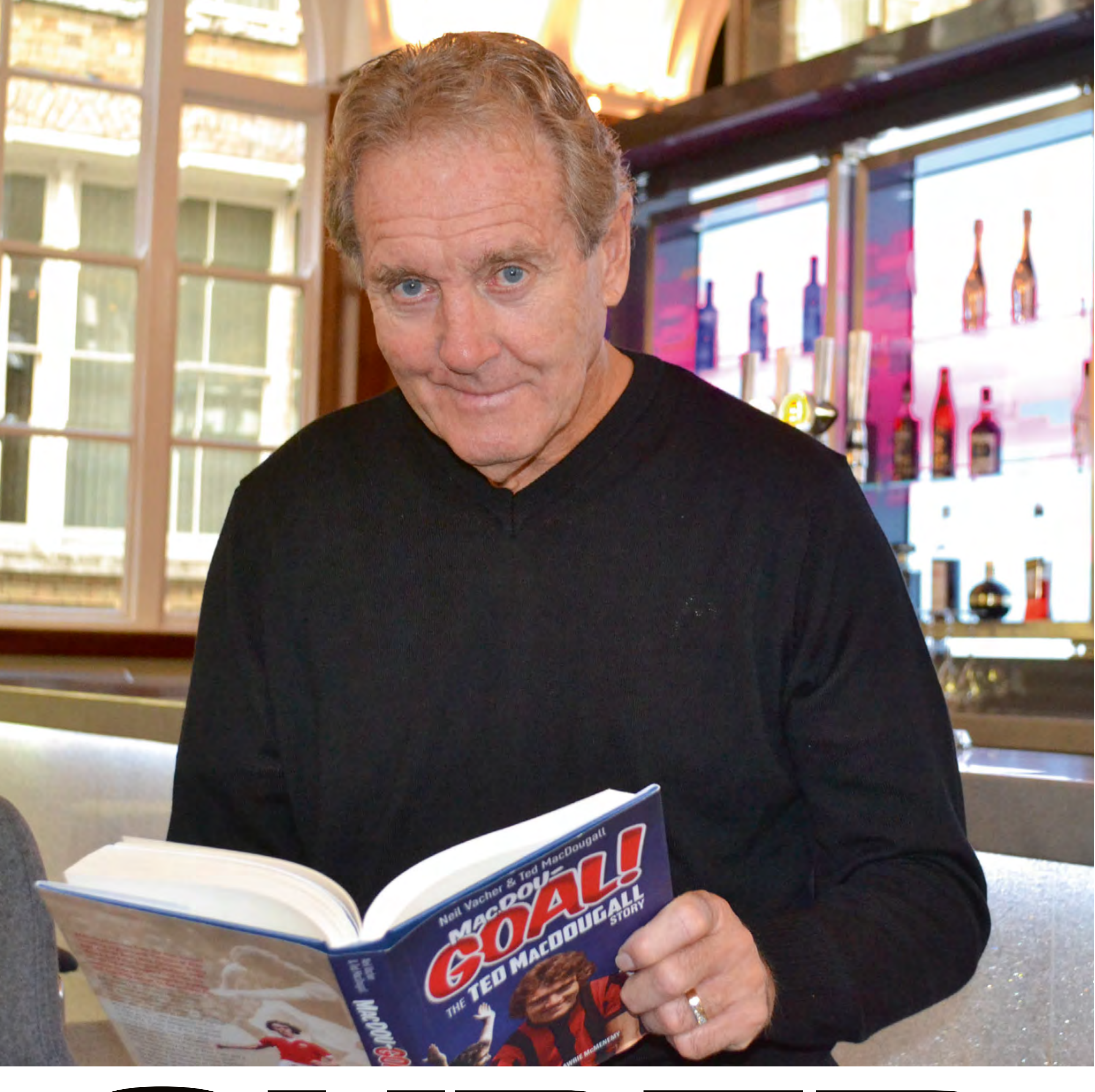
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- Watch the First Team training session
- Lunch break with Jürgen in Melwood
- Take Jürgen on for a game of paddle tennis, one of his favorite hobbies, at the specially designed court at Melwood
- Photo opportunities and a signed shirt each to take away

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Registered charity no: 1096572
Please visit www.charitystars.com/klopp for full terms and conditions.



SUPER TED

Tales of Shanks and the Seventies from the goal-machine who learned his trade with Liverpool FC

Ted MacDougall was a prolific marksman on the English football scene during the 1970s.

Liverpool found that out to their cost as he scored against them for three different teams during that decade: West Ham United, Norwich City and (whisper it) Manchester United.

It could have been quite different, however, for the Inverness lad who moved to Widnes with his family at the age of 12. His father had worked on the railways in Scotland but moved to Cheshire to find work. Ted, meanwhile, was a talented young footballer whose potential had not gone unnoticed while he was making headlines – literally – in the local press.

"Back in those days everyone said: 'Get a trade and you'll be sorted for life'. Football was still considered a risk," he explains. "When I was 15 I left school and went for an interview at the Swale Press in Widnes, who printed the *Runcorn*, *Widnes* and *Liverpool Weekly News*. I started as a trainee compositor. It wasn't just newspapers we printed, in fact the company used to offer a design service for all kinds of printed matter, so I attended a print and design course at Liverpool College of Art three nights a week."

Around the same time Ted was starting to cause a stir with his goalscoring exploits in local amateur football with clubs such as ICI and Everite. "In those days you used to have to set every letter individually into the 'print case' in the papers which took a long time, so there was quite a large number of staff employed at the works. I was scoring quite a lot of goals and there were a few headlines about me in the amateur football section. Of course I made sure those headlines were a little bit bigger and bolder than they might have been otherwise!

"When I was 17, a foreman at the printworks knew someone at Liverpool FC and I was asked if I wanted to go for a trial. It was a Tuesday night at Melwood, which in those days was nothing like the Melwood of today.

"THERE WAS ONLY ONE SUB AND NO SQUAD ROTATION – YOU PLAYED FOR YOUR SHIRT"

"Of course I said yes. There were a large number of lads there but I must have done okay because they invited me back on the Thursday.

"Tom Bush, the scout, was there along with Joe Fagan and Reuben Bennett. I was asked to sign amateur forms and then worked my way up through the C, B and A teams. I kept scoring goals and eventually displaced some of the apprentices in the reserve team which was a big deal at the time."

His scoring statistics remained impressive in the Central League but they came at a time when it was arguably harder than ever to get into the Liverpool team.

Ted explains: "Liverpool's forwards were Roger Hunt and Ian St John, and there was only one substitute permitted and none of the squad rotation that there has been in more recent times. When you were in the team you played for your shirt. Liverpool won the league in 1965/66 with Bill Shankly using only 14 players."

Nonetheless his performances continued to impress. "One day we were in the changing-room at Melwood and either Joe or Reuben said to me: 'Oh the boss wants to see you by the way'. I said: 'Boss? What do you mean, the boss?' 'Bill Shankly' came the reply. 'He's in his office and wants to see you'.

"I was shaking like a leaf because it was like meeting a god. I remember some of what he said. He told me he liked me and that I'd been doing really well. He then offered me a professional contract with the club on £18 per week. At the time I was earning £9 a week as an apprentice compositor. Of course, I was excited but Mr Shankly told me I needed to go and speak to my parents.

"Training as a compositor was a six-year course and by that stage I only had another two years to go. I sat down with my parents but they just said: 'What do you want to do?' Of course, I said I wanted to play football. They asked whether I thought

Ted top-row far-right as substitute for a game at Aston Villa in 1966



I could make it. I said I did but then what kid doesn't think that at such an age? My parents had partly moved from Inverness to Cheshire to give me a better chance of becoming a footballer and they backed my decision completely. They changed my life that day and I loved them to the day they died."

Ted signed professional forms the day after his 19th birthday, in January 1966. "I was flying then. I had been playing with lads like Geoff Strong, Alf Arrowsmith and Gordon Wallace and now we were hoping to challenge for first-team places."

In October 1966 he was named as twelfth man for the league game at Aston Villa. The Reds won 3-2 with goals from St John, Ian Callaghan and Bobby Graham, but Ted did not get onto the pitch. The same was the case a fortnight later when he was an unused sub for a 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest at the City Ground.

As it turned out, those games would be about the nearest he would come to senior action with the Reds, though he did also make the bench again the following season for two European Cup matches against Romanian champions Petrolul Ploiesti. At the end of the 1966/67 season, Ted went away to spend the close-season working in a bar in sun-kissed Mallorca.

"SHANKLY CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE AND SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO BUT IT WAS UP TO ME"

"It was quite common for a number of players to do that kind of thing in those days. One day I saw an English newspaper and it had a story saying: 'Ted MacDougall signs for York'. I knew nothing about it! Soon afterwards I received a telegram from my Dad saying I needed to come home and sort things out.

"Bill Shankly called me into his office and told me he didn't want me to go but that it was up to me. At 20, you are probably a bit naive and maybe I was too hasty, but York offered me first-team football and Liverpool had just taken on another centre-forward in Tony Hateley. So I ended up signing for York for £5,5000.

"Shankly was great and I always held him in the highest esteem. The five-a-sides at Liverpool became a huge part of training and he would join in with us. Can you imagine what that was like

Interview by William Hughes



Playing for Bournemouth (below) v Walsall in 1971

for the younger players? His house overlooked Everton's training ground and before we had derby matches for the 'A' team or the reserves, he would often come in and say: 'I've been watching them. They cannae play, they're n'ae fit. Their shorts are all ripped because their backsides are too big!' And this was all before psychology was even a word in a football context!"

In hindsight Ted admits that he may have been overawed by sharing a dressing room with established big-name players."There were lads like Tommy Smithy, big Ron Yeats, Cally... Great, great lads but, in a way, I was probably too much in awe of them as I hero-worshipped them."

After his leaving of Liverpool, he went on to enjoy a fine career and became a firm favourite at Norwich City and Southampton, but it was at Bournemouth where he really made his name, scoring 144 goals in 222 games, including a record-breaking nine-goal haul in one FA Cup game against Margate. Today, the Cherries have a stand named in his honour.

"I left Liverpool on the best terms and that is how it has remained. I always seemed to do well against them when I returned but I will always have the utmost respect for the club.

"One year I was top goalscorer in Division One with Norwich City and Liverpool allowed me to train at Melwood on the Monday after a game at Anfield. I was taking part in the famous five-a-sides and goal-hanging when I heard a shout from three pitches away: 'MacDougall, you've got to track back as well'. I turned and saw it was Joe Fagan – and he was right!



Ted joins Southampton from Norwich, 1976

"GROWING UP IN LIVERPOOL IN THE SIXTIES WAS SPECIAL – EVERYONE HAD A SCOUSE ACCENT!"

"When I played for Scotland I roomed with Graeme Souness and when he was manager at Southampton, we went to the same gym together and Phil Boersma was with him there too. Then at Norwich, Dougie Livermore was around so there were always plenty of Liverpool links."

Nowadays Ted, who's just turned 70, lives in Florida and is employed by GotSoccer, the biggest computer-software company involved in youth-football administration in the USA. But he will always believe his days with the Reds gave him the perfect springboard to his achievements in the game.

"To grow up in Liverpool in the Sixties was something special with the music scene and the success of the football teams. Everyone had a Scouse accent! There was no better start to a career in football. I loved Liverpool Football Club, the atmosphere and the staff, and I have never lost my affection for the club."

■ MacDou-Goal! The Ted MacDougall Story is published by Pitch and on sale now.

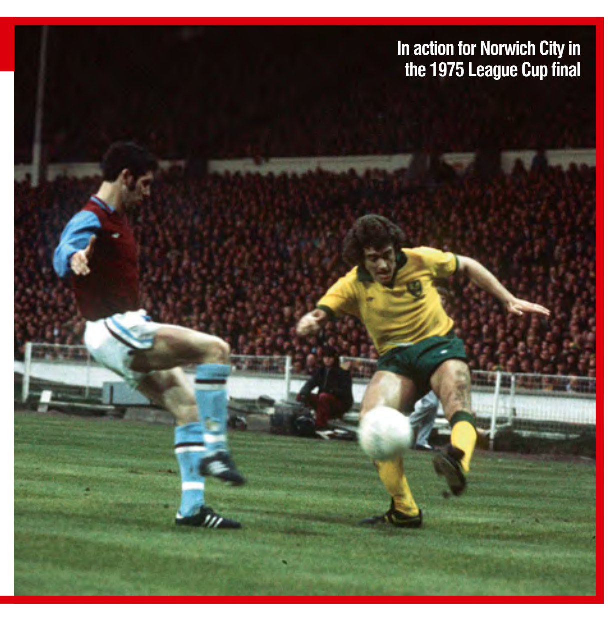
TED'S TRAVELS

Edward John MacDougall signed amateur forms with Liverpool FC in May 1965, and became a professional the following January. A short but sweet Central League career brought hat-tricks against Barnsley and Manchester City.

In July 1967 he moved to York City and scored 40 goals in 90 games, before joining Bournemouth in the summer of 1969, for a fee of £8,000. A hugely impressive 126 goals in 166 appearances for the Cherries earned him a £220,000 move to Manchester United in September 1972. His opportunities were limited at Old Trafford – although he did score against Liverpool in a 2-0 win – and after six months he joined West Ham for £150,000. After 25 appearances it was Norwich City next, for whom he scored at Anfield in a 3-1 Canaries win in November 1975. But the following September he was on the move again, this time to Southampton where he fired 48 goals in 105 matches.

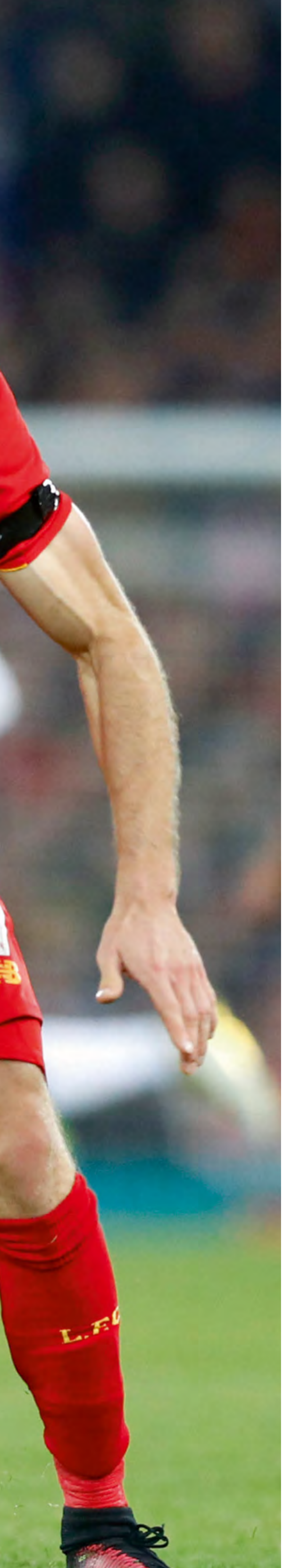
It was back to Bournemouth in November 1978 on a 'free', then a spell in the States with Detroit Express before ending his playing career with a handful of non-league sides plus clubs in Australia and Hungary.

For Scotland he made seven appearances, all in 1975, and scored three times.


In action for Norwich City in the 1975 League Cup final

RAGNAR





THE GREAT



The Anfield faithful warmed to him right away, and central-defensive warrior Ragnar Klavan promises he and his team-mates will always fight for the cause

May 1999. Viljandi, south Estonia. Thirteen-year-old Ragnar Klavan has been training with the youth sides of Tulevik when he hears a snippet of football transfer news. Sami Hyypia, the Finnish centre-half, has moved from Dutch side Willem II to Liverpool FC.

In the years that follow, that sports bulletin will prove important to Klavan as he plots his own path to a career in professional football.

The year 1999 was a significant one. Tulevik's senior side finished it as runners-up in the Meistriliiga, the top division in Estonian football. It was – and still is – the club's best-ever league performance and helped fuel Klavan's desire to make it in the game. By the time the new millennium was sworn in, he had also won his first caps for Estonia's Under-15s.

"Back then, there was not so much English football available to watch," he explains. "On the television you could see maybe one game a week. There was no internet at that time and so the availability of football wasn't anything like it is now where you can watch matches on your mobile phone wherever you are. It was something special when they would show a Premier League game on television, especially if Mart Poom [the Estonian



“IT’S THE FIRST TIME I’VE PLAYED TWO GAMES IN 48 HOURS, THAT WAS SOMETHING A BIT SPECIAL!”

goalkeeper then employed by Derby County] played. It was special for us as a country and for me.

“Of course, Liverpool were a well-known team. They have a big reputation everywhere but also in Estonia at that time because of Sami Hyypia. He was from Finland who are our neighbours [the countries capitals, Tallinn and Helsinki, are 55 miles away across the Gulf of Finland]. To see him play here at Liverpool as a centre-back and do so fantastically well was inspiring.

“I played against his team when he was the manager of Bayer Leverkusen and I was at Augsburg, but I haven’t really met him. Maybe one day if he comes back to watch Liverpool, it would be nice to say hello.”

Now six months into his own Liverpool career, Klavan has been adjusting to life in England on and off the field. As he chats away at Melwood, his command of English is extremely impressive and he admits that has been a big factor in helping him make the adjustment to the Premier League.

“In Estonia, English is our second language. Of course Estonian is first but the second language that you start to learn at school is English, although it’s American-English so the accent is a little bit different! For us, all the foreign TV shows and movies were in English with subtitles, which helps you learn. I know in some countries you have Denzel Washington speaking German but it wasn’t like that! Being able to understand and speak the language has certainly helped me settle in England quicker.

“We have an apartment now so we are slowly finding our way here which is nice for the family as well. My oldest son goes to school, while the other one is still at home. My oldest is a little bit shy, but he has been here six months now so he is getting better with the language so that should make it easier. It’s good for the children to learn English as it always helps a lot in later life if you can speak as many languages as possible.”

As far as the football is concerned, the centre-back admits that the adaptation process remains ongoing.“For sure, the Premier League is the most attractive league in the world. The games are really intensive and also really physical. For me, the




17
BETVICTOR

biggest difference was understanding what is allowed by the referee in this competition. This can really determine the game.

"Of course, it is also a physical league in Germany but the referees don't allow as much as they do here. That means you train differently and you adapt to the game differently. Here in England, more is allowed and as a centre-half you can have more physicality...it takes a little while to understand that and adapt to it but I feel I am doing that now.

"It still takes a little bit of getting used to because the strikers in the Premier League are something unique, if you can describe it like that. Over the Christmas period for instance, one day you are playing against Peter Crouch who is two-metres-one tall and in the next games you are playing against Sergio Aguero and Jermain Defoe: the strikers are all world-class and every game is a really, really difficult match with not much respite.

"We study the strikers but because of their quality, we tend to know quite a bit about them already. In the end it's really about how you perform to counter their strengths on the day."

Talking about that Christmas schedule, Ragnar admits his first experience of festive football was also truly unique. "It was something new for me! The schedule is pretty busy here and it was the first time in my professional career that I have ever played two games with less than 48 hours between them so that was something special!

"I think the hardest part of that was actually the mental side rather than the physical aspect, which was fine. Given our game and the way we play, I think that was the most difficult thing, but of course I understand that's how it is in England and you have to get used to it.

"You just have to look at it game-by-game and keep on going through the hard months of December and January. These are crucial moments for every team and we had to make sure that we were still in a competitive position at the end of them.

"I've heard from the other lads in the dressing-room that the Christmas schedule next season could be even busier which is something to look forward to! Maybe it will have been a good preparation for the coming years for me."

"FOR ME THE BIG DIFFERENCE WAS KNOWING WHAT WAS ALLOWED BY THE REFEREES IN THIS LEAGUE"

With more than 100 international appearances to his name, and a CV which includes title wins in Estonia and Holland prior to his four seasons in the Bundesliga, his experience was identified as important by manager Jürgen Klopp when he brought him to Anfield in July.

Speaking then, the Reds' boss explained: "At the end of last season I knew that if we decided to take somebody in this position, he was the one I wanted. Now I'm really happy with the options we have at centre-back. I've seen up close for three seasons how good his performances in Germany have been and last season we got chance to see him against us – and a lot in preparation – for our games against Augsburg.

"He will bring us really good qualities with his defensive intelligence and ability on the ball and he is a left-footed player so will give us extra balance. I know that he is not only a very good



No way through for Manchester City…


L.F.C.
BETVICTOR

With the manager at Melwood

player but the type of mentality and person who is coming here to fight and to win."

Klavan admits those words were music to his ears. "To hear those kind of things from one of the best managers in the world...well of course it is really nice to hear. I had the opportunity to make that dream transfer at the age of 30. I worked my whole life for it and then finally that moment was there, so now I just want to repay that kind of respect and trust that they saw in me by giving all I can back to this football club and those people."

Along with James Milner and Lucas, he is one of only three thirty-somethings among the outfield players in the Liverpool squad. "I know that I am the oldest outfield player and, after Alex Manninger, the second-oldest in the whole squad! It may be perceived that 31 is quite old in football, but for the 'oldies' it is all to our advantage that the knowledge about recovery and staying fit is getting better and better now.

"I mentioned Peter Crouch before and Peter is 36 now and still going strong so hopefully that shows that it is possible for us older guys in the Liverpool squad to play in the Premier League for a number of years yet."

Ragnar believes that the growth of the 'team behind the team' has been among the biggest changes he has seen in his 15 years in the professional

"WE'RE FIGHTING TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING, YOU CAN SEE IT IN EVERYBODY'S EYES HERE"

game. "It is a big difference, especially with food. We have a really good nutritionist here who knows everything about the importance of what you eat and that helps a lot. We have access to the sports-science information and we have really good medical and fitness departments here to keep us fit. When I was growing up and playing my first years as a pro, we didn't really have that kind of knowledge but nowadays it's a lot more advanced."

Fitness is a key part of Klopp's style and the manager is known for demanding the same levels of intensity from his squad in training as in matches. Klavan admits that took a little adjusting to but believes the squad are now reaping the rewards for all their hard work at Melwood. "I came from a German club where the fitness level was important but we still have Germans overseeing training here and now it is even harder! To be totally honest, it's really good. Of course it's hard work every day but when you have a game you can see the difference that it makes. It's intensive training in every session but you can see the benefits.

"In the beginning it was hard. In pre-season and a couple of months into the season it was tough but then your body gets used to it and you adapt and think: okay, this is the new level, this is the new line you have to reach."

In a column in this magazine earlier in the season ex-LFC and Germany midfielder Dietmar Hamann identified Klavan's leadership qualities. Captain of Estonia, his vast experience is


Hyypia: hero

important in the dressing-room, but does he see himself as a leader?

"Yes and no. You already have so many good guys around the team here so it is more like a team-effort. You have Jordan Henderson who is the captain here and who takes on a lot of responsibility, but you also have the other guys who step up in that way too so I think we have a good mix in that respect both on and off the pitch."

Ragnar has been competing for one of the centre-back berths with Dejan Lovren, Joel Matip, Lucas and a fit-again Joe Gomez. It is a situation he believes is replicated throughout the squad. "It's a nice thing to have this kind of healthy competition inside of the group for every position, especially at this level where we are trying to achieve something with this club.

"You cannot slack or let your legs loose because of that competition and you always have to work hard every day to fight for your position. From that point-of-view I think everybody benefits: the team and every single player in their quest to improve.

"Of course I'm always happy to get the chance to play when selected and I always try to be ready for the team. If it's needed that I play, then I play; and if not, then not. But that is the same attitude held by everybody in the squad and I think this makes us something special. We have a really good team and a good chemistry in the squad and you can see that everybody is working really hard to achieve things."



… nor Middlesbrough

So, will the Reds be able to point to success when they look back on their 2016/17 campaign? "That's a good question for everybody and I don't have a clear answer for that. You can see that our team is still youngish and we are clear that we want to achieve something. You can see that in everybody's eyes in this group. When it's going to happen is hard to say, but you can see that everybody is working for it every day.

"Maybe it will take some more time, maybe it won't. In football sometimes it comes down to small details. Even in a long season, small details can change everything. But when you look at the team, everybody's fighting to achieve something here with Liverpool.

"You can also see straightaway with the manager and everybody around him that it is a really good environment here. Then you see the training staff and the organisation that they are building.

"They are really, really good people and they are building something special here."

KLAVAN ON THE KOP

"I played here last season with Augsburg but, of course, the ground has changed a bit since then," says Ragnar.

"It's not too easy to describe the feeling you get walking out as a Liverpool player. People talk a lot about getting goosebumps when the fans sing *You'll Never Walk Alone* but it was true for me the first time too, even when I was sitting on the bench as a Liverpool player. That says a lot about the impact of the stadium and the people inside it. When I made my debut against Hull City it was very special for me to walk out in front of those people and have them cheering us on. It is something special in everybody's life who steps out onto the Anfield pitch to play for Liverpool.

"I have sampled playing against Liverpool here and it is really hard. All these supporters create this whole club and you have that sense of representing them. Our fans can make a big impact on the rest of our season; it is a big boost for us when they are with us from the first minute to the last.

"The game against Manchester City was a perfect example. We were leading but they were pressing us more in the second half, getting more possession and pushing us a little bit downfield. You could sense that the crowd understood that we were having a few difficult moments so they started cheering us all the more which gave us extra energy to stay in the game and keep on fighting."



Interview William Hughes

Part two of our series celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 1977 European Cup win takes us to farthest Turkey

BLACK

Liverpool had never played in Turkey before being paired with Trabzonspor in the draw for the second round of the European Cup in October 1976. The first leg was in Trabzon and getting to this historic Silk Road port on the Black Sea coast proved to be beyond even the travelling Kop.

The British government advised Liverpool to refuse their ticket allocation due to ongoing political violence, described as a 'low-level war', in Turkey. Legend has it that only one intrepid Reds fan made it to Trabzon with most people listening to the match, which kicked off at 3pm local time, on Radio City back home via a commentary sent by telephone!

It was even more difficult for Bob Paisley and his players, who were forced to stay for two nights due to travel restrictions. Chief scout Tom Saunders had previously returned to Merseyside from a fact-finding trip to warn the LFC party: "Don't be expecting anything great."

Defender Phil Thompson later recalled: "We stayed in Istanbul for the first night, and then we had to get a local airline to this airport, and we had to fly onto the top of a cliff. The place was like something you'd seen in the movie *Casablanca*. We went up little winding roads to the hotel.

"The bedrooms were frightening. If anybody remembers [Reds reserve forward] Alan Waddle, he was about 6ft 6in and his bed must have been about 5ft 6in. He came down and said: 'I can't get in me bed!' We asked what he meant and he said: 'Just come and have a look'. Me and Terry Mac go along, and his legs are hanging off the bed."

It was hardly a relief, either, to finally play the game. With Ray Kennedy and Phil Thompson feeling ill after eating, and Ian Callaghan only just passed fit to make what would be a British-record 79th European appearance, after suffering a bout of shoulder pain, it was always going to be a tough proposition. The conditions Liverpool faced at the Huseyin Avni Aker Stadyumu got even worse.

"A LOCAL PLANE FLEW US TO THE TOP OF A CLIFF THEN IT WAS WINDING ROADS TO THE HOTEL"

Trabzonspor were an emerging force, having become the first club outside of the Turkish capital Istanbul to win their league title. But the pitch was bumpy with one corner covered in small rocks, apparently thrown on by home spectators among the 25,000-strong crowd, while Reds boss Paisley famously described the egg-shaped ball as "a pig's bladder."

A dour encounter, played half in sunshine and half in heavy rain, was settled by a controversial 63rd-minute Cemil Usta penalty conceded by Emlyn Hughes who described it as "a ridiculous decision." Paisley remained philosophical about the whole experience: "It was all part of a test of our European expertise and



David Johnson makes it two at the Annie Road end

Kevin Keegan scores the third – game over

SEA REDS

our collective character. I like to think that we passed it."

Back at Anfield a crowd of 42,275, including 3,000 noisy Turks in the Main Stand, witnessed a second leg that was over inside 18 minutes. Kevin Keegan headed Terry McDermott's cross into the path of Steve Heighway for an eighth-minute opener and two minutes later Trabzonspor skipper Cemil Usta mis-controlled Heighway's cross allowing David Johnson to make it 2-0.

When Keegan headed home Callaghan's 18th-minute cross Trabzon knew they were beaten. Three minutes from the end substitute Mehmet Cemil was sent off for clattering Phil Neal having already been booked for kicking the ball into the crowd.

Up next in the quarter-finals? St Etienne. The night of all nights...

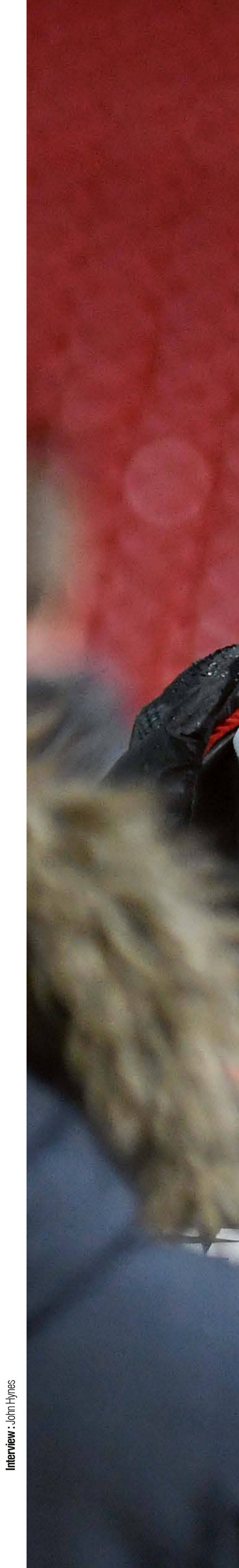
SECOND ROUND FIRST LEG
20 OCTOBER 1976
TRABZONSPOR 1 LIVERPOOL 0
Clemence, Smith, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, McDermott, Heighway (Fairclough 75), Toshack (Johnson 72), Callaghan. Subs not used: McDonnell, Kettle, Case.
GOAL: Cemil Usta (63 pen).

SECOND ROUND SECOND LEG
3 NOVEMBER 1976
LIVERPOOL 3 TRABZONSPOR 0
Clemence, Neal, Jones, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, McDermott, Heighway, Johnson, Callaghan. Subs not used: McDonnell, Kettle, Case, Fairclough, Toshack.
GOALS: Heighway (8), Johnson (10), Keegan (18).


Phil Thompson tries his luck on the Turkish goal

"THESE PLAYERS ARE HERE FOR A REASON: BECAUSE THEY ARE TALENTED. WE THEN ASK THEM: HAVE YOU GOT THE MENTALITY TO PUSH ON AND MAKE THE MOST OF THAT ABILITY?"

Under-23s coach Mike Garrity on what it takes to make it – just maybe – at Liverpool FC



Interview : John Hynes

As a local lad what are your earliest memories of Liverpool FC?

I'm originally from Kirkdale and my dad made sure I was a Liverpool fan when I was growing up. I used to stand on the Kop with my mates as a young lad. They were great times. I saw some good teams and superb players in action. The guy who probably stood out the most when I look back now is John Barnes. I always remember a game against Spurs in October 1989 where he scored the only goal. He was unbelievably good, just unstoppable.

You joined the club's youth ranks at the age of eight...

Yeah, it was the Centre of Excellence then. I was a defender/midfielder/striker and trained under Steve Heighway, Dave Shannon and Hughie McAuley. I was here for quite a while and loved it. Then I joined West Brom at 16. Initially I thought I wasn't ready to move down to Birmingham, but when I went I realised I was – because it made me grow up and mature. It was a great life-experience and I still have good friends in that area now. I spent five years at the club during which I broke my leg and was out for a long time before I got back playing. After that I ended up filtering down the leagues, playing non-league and in the Conference for a bit.

At what point did you decide to hang up the boots and move into coaching?

Around the age of 26 or 27 I knew the time had come for me to make a decision in terms of my long-term future. I could've gone back into full-time playing as I had a few offers, but I really enjoyed coaching and I was doing my badges. I thought if I went back playing then I wouldn't be able to give the coaching side enough attention. So basically I made the decision to stop playing and focus on coaching because I liked it and felt I had a good eye for it. I thought if I got to work with the right people I could learn a lot. Now and again I do miss playing, but I think I made the correct decision.


With Kenny in the stands

It must have been ideal to get a job at Liverpool?

Definitely. I contacted Steve Heighway and came in for a chat. That was around February 2005. There was a coach called Stuart Gelling and I ended up working in his department with lads like Karl Robinson, Iain Brunskill, Adam Flynn, Neil Murphy and Ian Dawes. There was about six or seven of us on the coaching team. We'd travel around the UK and go abroad, trying to teach kids the Liverpool way of playing. As well as coaching it was recruitment driven too. We'd try to spot players.

The whole set-up just expanded and from there I progressed and headed up the 6-12-year-olds department and coached. Then I moved onto the 12-16s, then became assistant manager to the Under-18s with 'Critch' [Neil Critchley]. Then the Under-21s and now the Under-23s. So it's been an enjoyable journey.

What have been the major differences working with the various age-groups?

When you're working with the young players there is such a hunger and eagerness to learn from them. You can see it. Younger players have a real absolute love for the game and are willing to try different ways of playing or training. They have such open minds. Older players are hungry too but probably in a slightly different way.

I think between 12-14 the lads come to a very uncertain place emotionally. Life is changing fast and some of them can become unsure or go into their shells. As coaches we have to realise that and try to help them as much as possible. Sometimes at that age it's not about the football, it's about other areas of their lives. You have to help them get through it as much as you can. That's probably the biggest difference you encounter with the various groups.

Another big part of coaching under-age teams must be interacting with parents...

That's not always easy. Every parent wants what's best for their child and rightly so. I think working with them is essential, particularly when you are involved with the younger age-groups.

Not every player is going to make it. That's impossible. It's a tough industry that's hard to crack. And even those who do make it will have plenty of ups and downs along the way. It's a real rollercoaster. Players and the parents have to try to remain level-headed, no matter what. I think there are occasions when the parents can become even more frustrated than the boys if it's not going right or they lose form. I think it's about trying to explain things to the parents and communicate effectively with them. If you can do that then it's much easier for everyone.



Mike (centre) with fellow Academy coaches Mark Morris and Tiim Jenkins

Luck must be a factor...

It's huge. Talent is a small slice of becoming a footballer and we emphasise that to the lads here. Sometimes it can be about having the right coach or the right manager in charge of the first team or somebody sees you on the day you play really well. Being lucky sometimes is about being given an opportunity. Staying away from injuries, or somebody else getting injured or suspended and that gives you a chance you end up taking, can be another piece of luck. It's so many different details that can fall into place for you.

And what about the correct attitude?

Again it's massive. I've seen a lot of players with bundles of talent but not the right attitude. They aren't prepared to listen. They try to do it their way. Attitude in life, not just football, is vital. Things are guaranteed to go wrong for you in football at some stage. There'll be coaches you don't like; there'll be a manager who doesn't pick you. How you deal with all that comes from your attitude. We want our players to be good people too and the attitude is a big part of that. The players we have are here for a reason: because they are talented. We then ask them: have they now got the attitude or the mentality to push on and make the most of that ability?

Somebody like Kevin Stewart is a great example of what I mean. He'd been let go by Spurs and came here. People don't see the amount of hours he put in and not just on the pitch. He'd be talking to you about his position and what else he needs to do. Or he goes in the gym. Or he spends time making sure his injury-prevention work is exactly right. He does all that to give himself the best possible chance of making it and has exactly the right mentality. If every player could invest in themselves the way he does then they'd have a great chance.





Harry Wilson leading out the U23s at Anfield

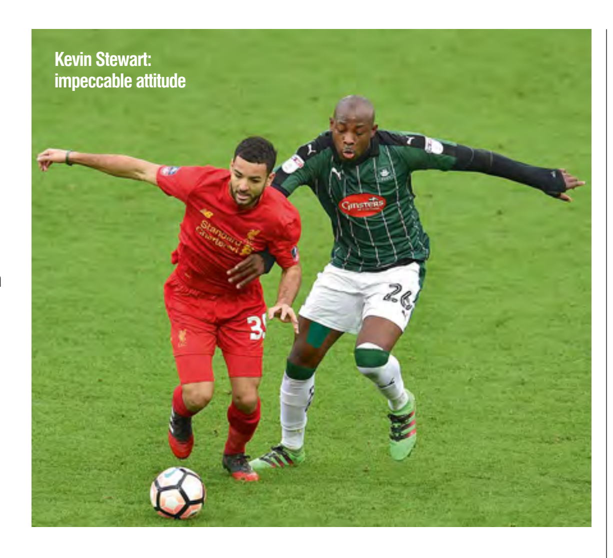
Player-development is hotly debated, with Brentford for instance recently scrapping their academy for an elite 17-21 squad...

I wouldn't be surprised if more non-Premier League clubs do that because financially it is a massive undertaking and if you're not in the top league it can be a struggle. Clubs are a business now and owners and chief execs might look at budgets and think: we're better off spending our cash in another area. That's perfectly understandable. Brentford are probably hoping to take guys who've been released by the big Premier League clubs in that area of London and work with them. That might be the best way for them. There is more than one way to climb Everest – we tell the players that all of the time.

'Academy players have it easy' say some ex-pros – do you agree?

The set-up has definitely changed. When I was a YTS you were always around the first team and you were very sheepish because, compared to them, you were a junior. Now in academies you have the U23 lads and they are the top of the shop. It's like school in that respect.

I think that the environment for young lads coming through was definitely tougher years ago. Some people would say it made them stronger or gave them character, but I think society has changed since then and football has had to, too.



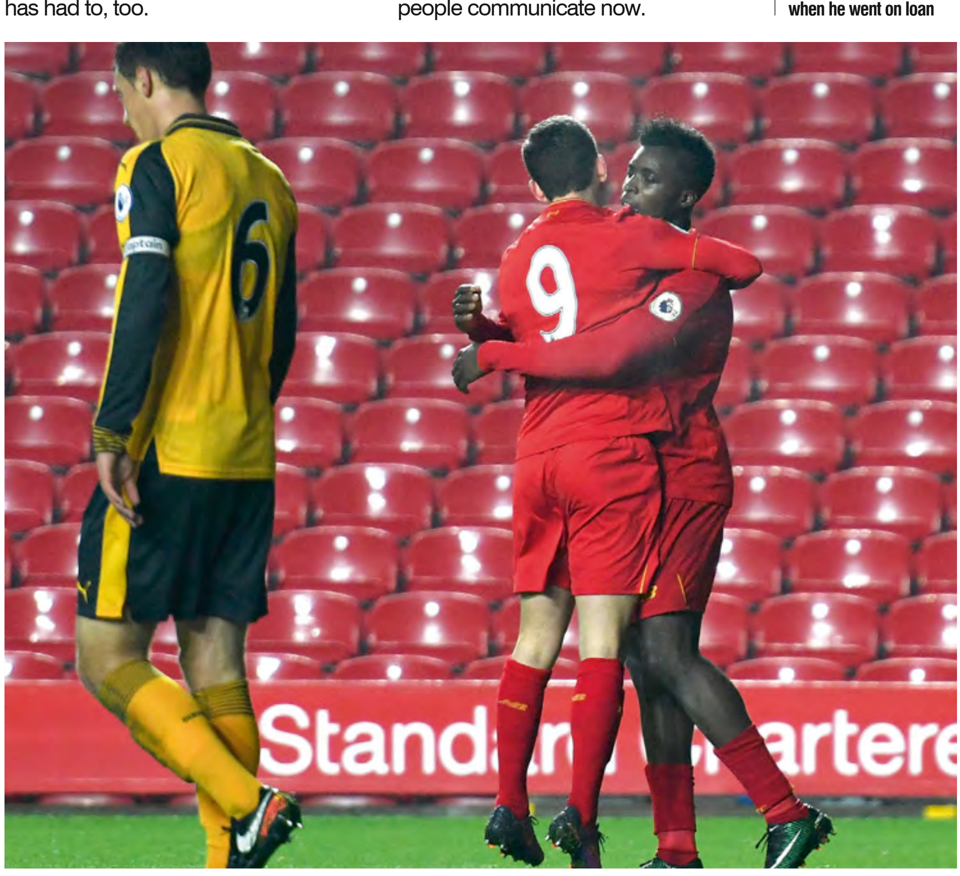
Kevin Stewart: impeccable attitude

Is it too easy? I don't know. What I do know is that academies can be like a bubble. It's different to the outside world where other lads of the same age are in education or working. I know 'Critch' does give the boys little jobs just to keep them grounded and humble. But I don't think we'll ever go back to the days when youngsters are sweeping rubbish off the terraces as part of their development.

What abut things like social media...

When I was doing my YTS there was no internet – you had to talk to people – whereas now most teenage lads are on their phone every chance they get. To be honest there are times where it can drive me mad, but that's how people communicate now.

Sheyi Ojo was ready when he went on loan



We do stress, though, that they need to be able to speak and socialise with their team-mates. We try to instil that because you want them to have good habits on and off the pitch. We ask them to become better at socialising because that's a big part of being in a dressing-room of a senior team. Some lads can find that side of things difficult when they go somewhere else on loan, but they have to do it.

Regarding loan-spells, is it tricky to get the timing right?

Sometimes people are ready, sometimes they're not. When Sheyi Ojo went to Wolves last season, for example, he was physically and mentally ready for it. Ryan Kent is another in that category. He's at Barnsley and doing well, getting the match-experience we can't give him.

Sometimes it's about a lad proving that a manager is prepared to trust you and pick you – can you take tactical instructions? It's also about proving that you can play in front of a crowd of maybe 20,000 in the Championship. That brings pressure. How you respond to it is a test. It can be stressful if you make a mistake and hear the crowd on your back. Do you dwell on it and make another error or quickly put it behind you and get on with it?

We try to tell the lads that they have to be able to perform in any environment because that's what all of the best players do. Your top guys can go somewhere hostile and thrive on it. That's what our lads have to do.

Under-age football has changed structurally in recent years...

I think people are always looking for a magic formula that will completely revolutionise the U21 or U23 age-group, but it's very hard to find. The age-bracket, from our point-of-view anyway, isn't much different; it's competitive in its own right. But for a lot of the lads it's a pit-stop on the way to bigger things. We'll see if it changes again over the next few years. We have our beliefs and our way of working here. That will always remain the same no matter what framework is put in place by the authorities.

How are you finding the role of U23 coach which you assumed before Christmas?

It's great. People like Harry Wilson and Tom Brewitt are in the team. I worked with them when they were ten or 11 and I've seen them grow as players and people. So to be working with them again now is very enjoyable. How could I not love it? This is my hometown club and I'm a very lucky person to be in such a position.



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8
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16

Didi Hamann

There are never any guarantees but Steven Gerrard has every chance of becoming a very good coach

During my playing days I would have said certain lads in the Liverpool dressing-room would never go into management. Markus Babbel was one. Sami Hyypia was another as he was very quiet and always kept himself to himself. Of course, both have become managers.

On the flip-side I would have confidently predicted Jamie Carragher becoming a coach. At the moment, though, you can't imagine him leaving his role as a pundit.

My point is that nothing any player has ever done on the field guarantees they will go into management. The two roles are completely different, as I found out myself when I was in charge at Stockport County.

As a player you have the life of Riley really. I was usually the last one in for training and the first one to leave. Your day began at nine or 10 o'clock and was over around lunchtime. When you are the boss it's the opposite. You have to be in early and you are still there long after training ends.

Your mindset has to change too. When you are playing all of your focus is your own job. As the man in charge you are responsible for absolutely everything. The decisions you make can affect the jobs of thousands of people. That's pressure.

Understandably, some ex-players can't make the transition; others go in to that side of the game and blossom.

I enjoyed it, particularly developing good relationships with players. I think in modern football that side of it is key. Players might come across as confident but there is so much uncertainty regarding injuries, suspensions and off-the-field problems that they need to feel you are on their side and working with them.

"AS ALWAYS STEVIE'S MAIN FOCUS WILL BE ON BECOMING THE BEST HE CAN POSSIBLY BE"

Despite liking the job, I've come to the conclusion that it's not what I want to do long-term. I don't want to be stood on the side of a football field for the next 15 years of my life. That's just not for me.

Steven Gerrard's new role at the Academy will enable him to find out if the coaching side of the game is to his liking. I never thought he would end up anywhere else other than Liverpool when he left LA Galaxy. Obviously the club were keen to have him on board and it was just a question of in which capacity. Now his role has been defined, he needs to be allowed to get on with it because this is all new to him.

Doing your coaching badges, as Stevie is, gives you a taste for that side of the game. But there is so much to learn about it. I've already heard people say he will be Liverpool manager one day in the future. Who knows?

Right now I think he's taken a great decision to become part of the Academy set-up because it allows him to figure out what he wants to do while working in an area of the game that is away from the intensity of the first team.

The dynamics of youth-team football are very similar to the senior set-up without getting as much attention. So, in that way, he will be able to develop as a coach at his own pace.

For the young players who will now be working with him, his appointment can only be beneficial. There aren't many ex-pros out there with the same type of big-game experience as Stevie so if he can pass on some of what he's learned it will only help their development.

The main focus of Stevie, as always, will be becoming the best he can possibly be. I think the way he was as a player – somebody who could quickly work out on-field situations even under lots of pressure – bodes well. I think he has the basics to be a good coach.

If he can continue learning and getting the help from the right people there's no reason why he can't be a major success.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann



Steven with Academy Director Alex Inglethorpe

Neil Mellor

Realistic expectations have always been about getting into the top four

Liverpool weren't the same exciting, attacking force in January that they had been earlier in the season and that was due to a number of disruptive factors.

In the opening months of the season Jürgen Klopp had more time to prepare his players and keep them fresh due to a lack of midweek games, but over Christmas and in January he didn't have that luxury. That had an affect. The absence of key players has also disrupted Liverpool's rhythm. The 1-1 draw with Chelsea was the 18th consecutive game that Klopp had not been able to pick his four main attacking players – Adam Lallana, Sadio Mane, Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino – in his starting XI.

The last time they all started at the same time was in the 6-1 win at home to Watford in early November. It's no coincidence that the Reds only won seven of those 18 matches, having previously won 11 of the opening 14 games.

That has, of course, provided opportunities for fringe players, but it is difficult to come in for a key player when you haven't been playing and don't have the same match-sharpness, momentum or rhythm as the regulars. At a club like Liverpool you are also judged against the player who has come out of the team – you're expected to be at their level – and that is tough.

When I was trying to break into the Liverpool team we went through a rough period in 2002/03 when we started the season well only to go on a run of 11 Premier League games without winning. All you can do at a time like that is keep working hard, keep doing the right things and maintaining the belief that you are good enough to come through it.

My hope is that the Anfield draw against Chelsea will be a turning point. We had key players, including Joel Matip, back and proved again that there isn't much between the two sides when we go head-to-head. A result like that and the return of players like Coutinho and Mane can give everyone in the Liverpool changing-room a big lift and it has to be remembered that realistic expectations at the start of the season were for a top-four finish.

"LIVERPOOL COULD BE WELL PLACED TO GO ON ANOTHER GOOD RUN IF PLAYERS CAN STAY FIT"



Let's hope Chelsea is a turning point

Liverpool have only finished in the top four once in the last seven seasons. We've been off the pace so just getting back into one of those Champions League qualifying positions would be a big step in the right direction given there are five teams all vying for the remaining three spots if you accept Chelsea have already claimed one of them.

With no European football to play, and only one round of midweek fixtures left this season, Liverpool could be very well placed to go on another good run if our most important players remain fit and fresh.

One of them, Philippe Coutinho, has just signed a new contract and that was a huge boost for everyone. He's progressed an awful lot as a Liverpool player. He's more consistent, has more influence and scores more goals now and was absolutely flying before his injury.

Coutinho's biggest talent is his ability to open up a defence – the creativity he possesses is admirable – so having him here long-term is good news.

It was also a shrewd move to hand young Joe Gomez a new deal. I like the look of Gomez. He's still only very young but is very mature for his age and has worked hard to get over a serious injury. He's a player for the future who has great potential and is at the best place to learn. Working with Klopp is one thing but training alongside experienced centre-halves such as Matip and Dejan Lovren will also accelerate his development.

At 19, Gomez is already strong, quick and reads the game well. He has the potential to be a long-term centre-half for Liverpool so tying him down to a new contract can only be seen as good business.

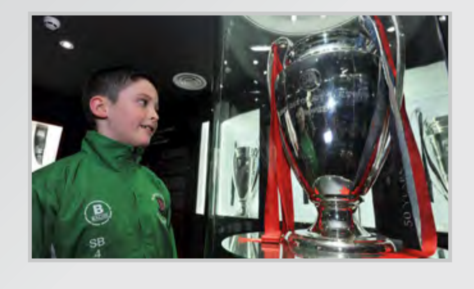
Follow Neil on Twitter
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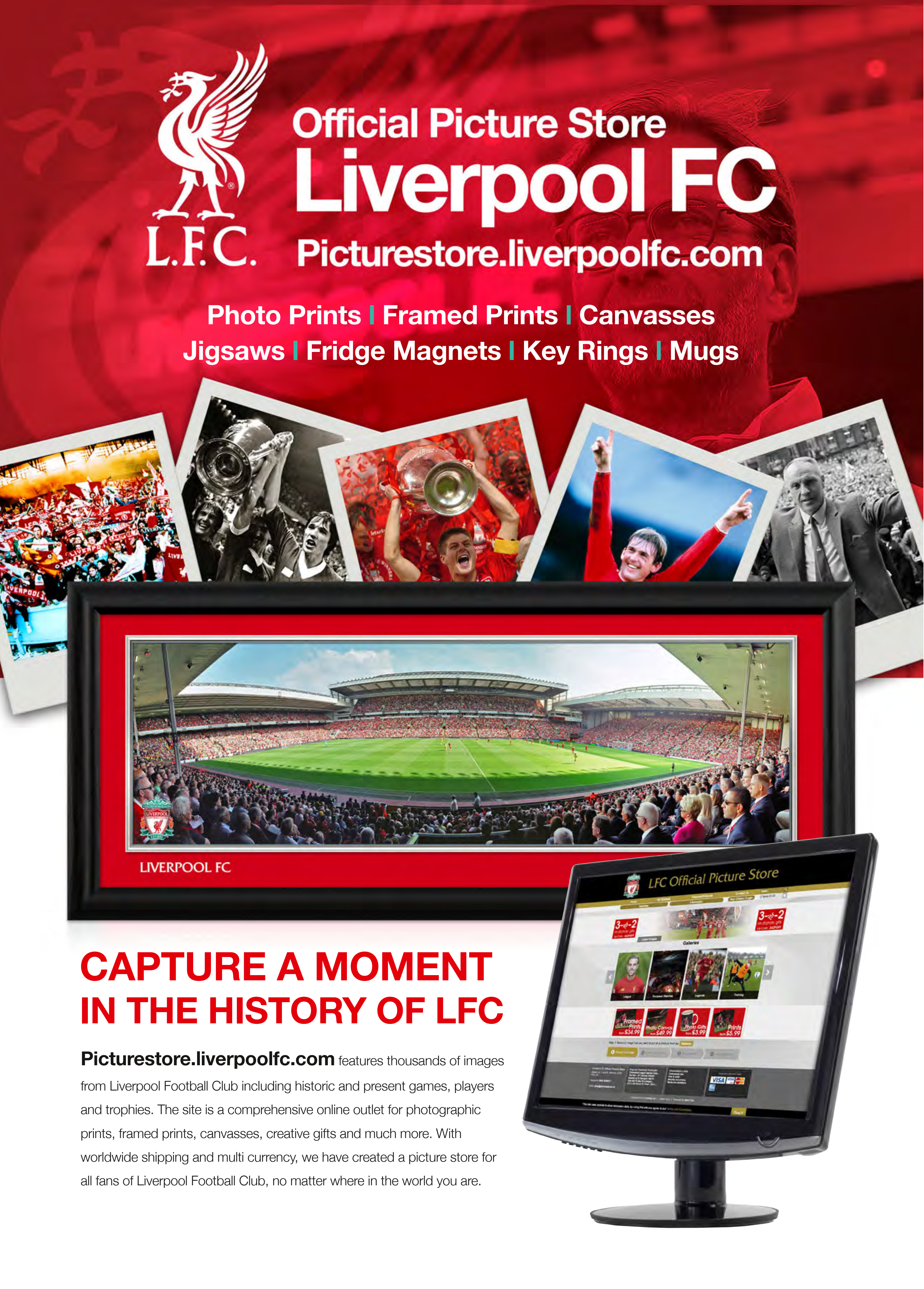


CLUB

A brand new shopping experience coming soon and LFC Magic Moments too

Premier League badges on home shirts in the Anfield dressing-room… How many times have the Reds finished in the top five since the Prem began in 1992/93?

Answer on p98



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LOOK WHAT'S IN STORE

By season 2017/18 it's going to be an Anfield shopping experience for Reds supporters like no other



Work on Liverpool FC's new flagship Anfield Stadium store continues, with contractors having arrived on-site to begin construction on the two-storey development.

It marks another milestone in the regeneration of the Anfield area and forms part of the city council's plan to rebuild Walton Breck Road where the new store will stand. Offering fans a premium shopping experience with exclusive product ranges, and a specially-designed first-floor cafe – open on both matchdays and non-matchdays – the 19,500sq ft store will be four times the size of the current Anfield store. Set to open early in 2017/18, it will also create around 60 permanent and casual roles.

Cllr Ann O'Byrne, deputy mayor of Liverpool, calls it "a key anchor for a new and revitalised high street in Anfield, creating more much-needed jobs. It is hoped that it will also attract new businesses keen to take advantage of a unique location next to one of the world's most famous football clubs, while helping to support many of the existing businesses by driving more people to the area."

Meanwhile across the Irish Sea, club ambassador Gary McAllister met hundreds of Belfast Reds when he paid a visit to the club's refurbished store in the city. The Reds legend officially opened the store before giving the staff a helping hand – serving the first official customer following the re-opening – and hosting a signing session.



ANFIELD: HOME OF MAGIC MOMENTS

There have been more Magic Moments for fans at Anfield recently. For the EFL Cup semi-final second leg, Reds supporters Darren and Charlie Clarke from Bedfordshire were invited to watch the teams warm up on the pitch before kick-off. And before the FA Cup tie with Plymouth Argyle, fans Steve and Ollie Lake from Welwyn Garden City watched the warm up and also got to visit some VIP areas of Anfield and meet club mascot Mighty Red. Magic Moments see fans picked at random on the day of the game for a never-to-be-forgotten experience; look out for more at Anfield this season.



ANFIELD TREAT

How Liverpool FC Foundation has been making a difference in the community and the wider world of football

February promises to be an exciting, even busier month for Liverpool FC Foundation, with the club's official Foundation Day scheduled for the Premier League fixture with Tottenham Hotspur. And here's what's happened just recently too…

LFC Academy youngsters were given a warm Anfield welcome as they trained on the pitch during half-time in the games against Stoke City and Manchester City. For the Potters match, coach James Williams took the pre-Academy side onto the pitch for some small-sided games in front of the 53,000-strong crowd. Then, for the visit of City, fellow coach Ryan Vaughan did the same with the Under-7s, and again the reception was first-class.

Head of Academy pre-recruitment Ian Barrigan said: "It's absolutely brilliant to be able to take the boys onto the Anfield pitch to something like this. For them to see the likes of Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana up-close is an unbelievable experience and one that will live with them for a long time."

There was brilliant news for a student from the LFC Foundation College, too, with Tony Donaldson signing for Doncaster Rovers. The 18-year-old, who was voted the college's player of the tournament in last season's Dallas Cup, has an 18-month deal with the League Two club.

The college, which gives 16-to-19-year-olds the opportunity to learn 'The Liverpool Way' alongside a unique educational experience, has had a number of students go on to sign for professional clubs and forge careers in the game. Its head of football John Keegan says: "It's wonderful news for Tony and everyone connected to the college, and it shows that all young players must keep working hard at their education and game in order realise their dreams.

"We create an environment here which allows the players to develop academically, physically, technically and as young adults."

Meanwhile the Foundation continues to engage with local schools. First-teamers Nathaniel Clyne and Adam Lallana visited Four Oaks Community Primary School to deliver tickets to pupils for the Premier League home game with Chelsea. It's part of the club's young fan initiative, with 55 tickets provided to schools in Anfield to watch Jürgen Klopp's side. Twenty-five schools are benefitting from the scheme this season with 21 primary schools and four high schools all located in the L4, L5 and L6 postcodes being involved with the initiative.



Also at Anfield, five young fans from Woodchurch High School had a day to remember when the Reds hosted Swansea City. Competing in the Foundation's Premier League Enterprise Challenge, the pupils were invited to enjoy pre-match hospitality from an executive box before watching from the Main Stand.



Nathaniel, Adam and local schoolchildren with Anfield match tickets

Teacher Adam Bunby, who accompanied the youngsters, said: "They've been working hard on their Premier League Enterprise Challenge and were ecstatic to hear they had got through to represent Liverpool Football Club in the next round. The prize of tickets to a match in a box in the new Main Stand was something they could never have dreamed of."

The Foundation also hosted a Premier League Schools tournament in partnership with football's equality and inclusion organisation, Kick It Out. There was a workshop from The Anthony Walker Foundation, focusing upon key topics such as equality and the prevention of hate-crime, and the morning ended with a presentation from Kick It Out in which awards were given out for 'Goal of the Day' and 'Best Attitude'.

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, said: "As much as we love to promote exercise alongside the Premier League, this was also about promoting equality and diversity not just in sport but in life in general."

FOR YOUNG FANS

RUN WITH THE REDS!

There's no time like the present to turn good intentions into healthy habits, so why not join Team Vitality and Liverpool FC Foundation for the Vitality Liverpool Half-Marathon on Sunday 2 April? This year Vitality have donated a limited number of free places to the Foundation (normally £32) and we're asking participants to try to raise a minimum of £100 by asking friends, family and colleagues to sponsor your challenge. The Half-Marathon starts and ends in the shadow of the Liver Building, taking in Sefton Park, Liverpool Marina and the waterfront. Contact foundationevents@liverpoolfc.com to join the team.



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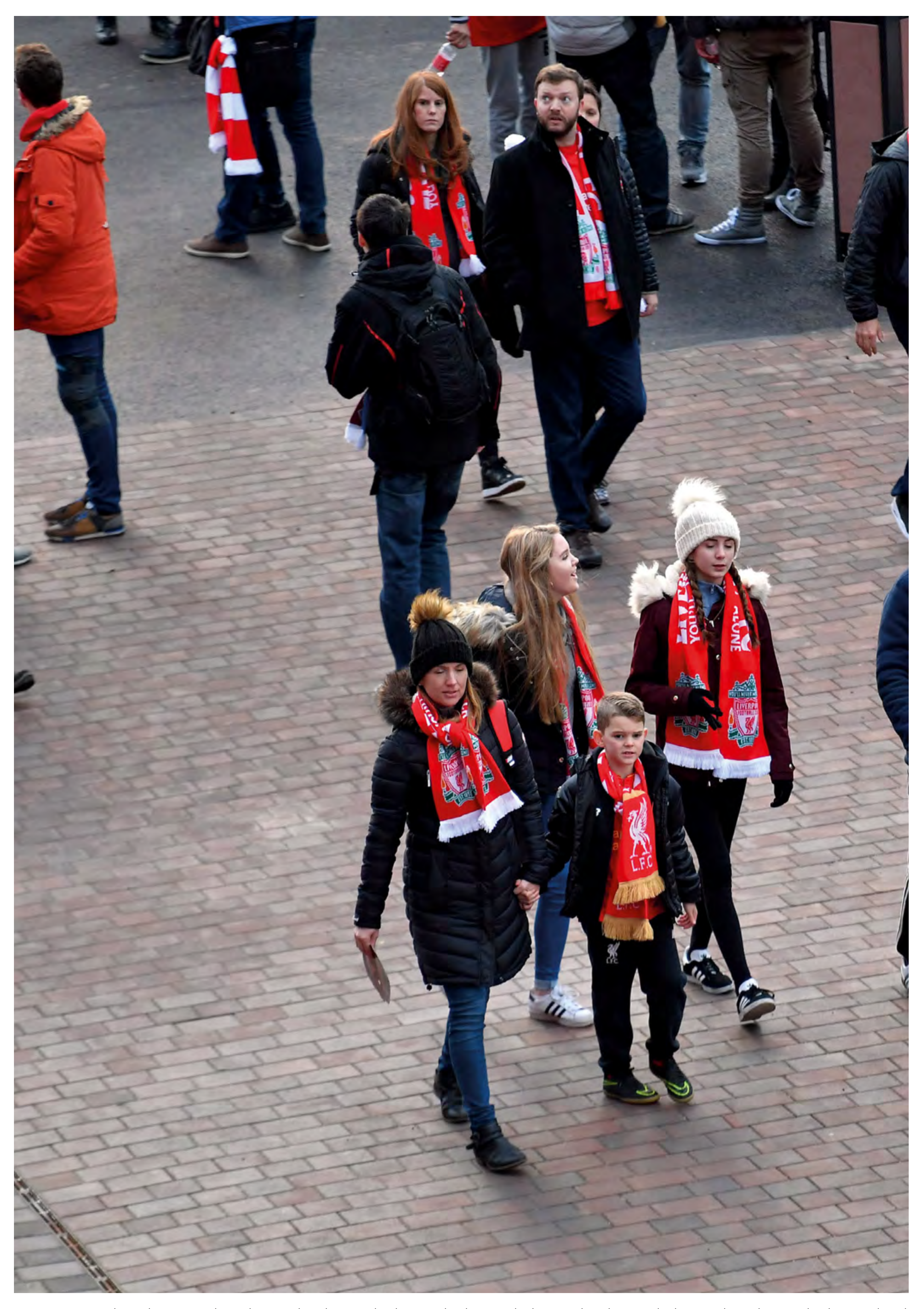
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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p7: The strip changed to all-red in 1964 under Bill Shankly; **FOOTBALL p31:** Coutinho played for Inter Milan (2008-13), Vasco de Gama (loan 2009-10) and Espanyol (2012 loan); **CLUB p91:** Liverpool have finished in the Premier League top five 15 times: 1994/95 (fourth), 1995/96 (third), 1996/97 (fourth), 1997/98 (third), 1999/2000 (fourth), 2000/01 (third), 2001/02 (second), 2002/03 (fifth), 2003/04 (fourth), 2004/05 (fifth), 2005/06 (third), 2006/07 (third), 2007/08 (fourth), 2008/09 (second) and 2013/14 (second).